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EC agrees on trade ban on Serbia

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — The European Community (EC) nations on Wednesday agreed to impose a trade embargo against Serbia in an effort to halt the violence in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, sources said. The countries, acting through their ambassadors to the 12-nation trading bloc, urged the United Nations to follow suit. The agreement has to be rubber-stamped by ministers over the next few days and the EC will pursue the issue of an oil embargo in the United Nations, the diplomats added. No further details were immediately available. Diplomats said the former Yugoslav federation's assets would not be frozen and EC states would neither terminate landing rights of the JAT national airline nor cut sports contacts. But they would stop all export credits to Serbia and Montenegro as well as all scientific and technical cooperation. The sanctions will come into effect as soon as they are published in the EC's official journal, probably early next week after rubber-stamping by the minister, the diplomats added. (See related story on page 8).

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Israel shuts down Arabic monthly

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel shut down an Arabic-language magazine on Wednesday on charges that it was linked with an illegal organization, an Israeli news agency reported. The 11th agency quoted the ministry of interior as saying it had revoked the publishing licence of Al Fatah Al Arabi, an East Jerusalem monthly, because it was connected with Fatah. Last year the authorities closed another publication owned by the same publisher, Israeli Arab Attallah Najjar. Mr. Najjar was unavailable for comment.

Jordan condemns Israeli raids

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber Wednesday condemned the repeated Israeli attacks on South Lebanon and called for an immediate halt to these attacks in respect for the sovereignty of Lebanon. In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Abu Jaber urged the international community to shoulder its responsibilities towards Lebanon and called for exerting every possible effort to force Israel to abide by international legitimacy.

PLO delegation expected in Syria

DAMASCUS (AP) — A high-level Palestinian delegation was expected for coordination with Syrian officials on future phases of Middle East peace talks, according to Palestinian sources. The sources, who requested not to be named, said the delegation would "most likely" be led by Yasser Arafat or his top aide, Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) political department. The exact timing of PLO delegation's arrival was not revealed but the sources said it would be "soon." They said Syrian-Palestinian talks would precede a meeting of foreign ministers of the Arab countries confronting Israel in bilateral talks arranged under the U.S.-brokered peace process that started in Madrid Oct. 30.

Iran's population exceeds 58m

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's population exceeds 58 million and is one of the fastest growing in the world, according to a recent census, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The census by Iran's Centre for Statistical Surveys revealed that the population stood at 58,110,227 by the end of the last Iranian year on March 21, IRNA said. The agency said average population growth over the past five years was 3.28 per cent. Iranian officials have said they have curbed growth to 2.7 per cent. It still means the population will double in 25 years through one of the fastest growth rates in the world. The population has grown by more than 23 million since 1979, when it was estimated at 35 million. Tehran's population has grown from 8.7 million in March 1987 to 10.3 million in March 1992, the census reported.

Ex-French minister charged in court

PARIS (R) — A French judge charged controversial tycoon and former government minister Bernard Tapie with being an accomplice to fraud on Wednesday, judicial sources said. Mr. Tapie, 49, resigned as minister of urban affairs on Saturday after only seven weeks in the Socialist-led government when an old dispute with a former business partner caught up with him and he was summoned for indictment. It had been widely expected that Mr. Tapie would be charged. Details of the charge were not yet available.

Turkish planes raid Iraq

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish aircraft bombed guerrilla positions in northern Iraq following the killing of 14 soldiers in a cross-border raid by Turkey's separatist Kurds, officials said on Wednesday. Turkish officials said the air strikes killed 10 members of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which is seeking an independent state in southeastern Turkey.

Rabbi stabbed to death in Gaza; Israeli troops kill Palestinian grandmother

Settlers go on anti-Arab rampage

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP

(Agencies) — A Palestinian stabbed a settler rabbi to death in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip on Wednesday and angry settlers responded by going on the rampage in the area.

In the occupied West Bank city of Jenin, soldiers shot dead a Palestinian grandmother when their bus was stoned, Palestinian sources said.

The Gaza attack was the second fatal stabbing of an Israeli in 72 hours. The army said a soldier shot and seriously wounded the attacker, Ahmad Ibrahim Ahmad, a 19-year-old Gazan.

A settler witness said Rabbi Shimon Biran, 32, was entering an agricultural complex when an Arab stabbed him from behind. He turned round and was stabbed through the heart, the witness

told Israeli Radio. Biran died later of his wounds.

Immediately after the Gaza attack, dozens of armed settlers rampaged through Palestinian areas near Kfar Darom.

Settlers burned Palestinian fields and hothouses. They beat an Israeli photographer and two Arabs, Israeli Radio said.

The army said it clamped a curfew on Dir Al Balah, the refugee camp where Ahmad lived, and environs. Soldiers, police and armed settlers patrolled Dir Al Balah looking for accomplices, Arab reports said.

Settlers threw rocks at Arab cars, and argued fiercely with soldiers who held them back at roadblocks, Arab reports said. They said two settlers fired their weapons in the air.

One unidentified settler said on

Israeli Radio, "We will carry out pogroms against the Arabs just as they have carried out pogroms against us, until the government imposes the death penalty." The maximum sentence for murder is life imprisonment.

"No, not pogroms," another settler interjected. "But we will do this until they fear our response. This is our country and if anyone will stain it in fire and blood it will be us, not them."

A spokeswoman for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) said settlers damaged two U.N. vehicles and the gate and windows of a U.N. school.

The students were briefly trapped inside the school but were later evacuated by bus under army escort.

She said students were also stranded inside two other U.N. schools in Dir Al Balah refugee camp when the army imposed a curfew to search for possible accomplices.

More than 3,000 Jewish settlers live in the Gaza Strip in guarded enclaves beside an estimated 750,000 Palestinian residents. Jewish settlers said on Tuesday they intended to expand a Gaza Strip settlement.

On Sunday, a Palestinian stab-

(Continued on page 5)

Sudan: Rebel demands threaten peace talks

ABUJA, Nigeria (R) — Sudan's Islamic-dominated government said on Wednesday that peace talks to end the country's nine-year civil war would be endangered if rebels pressed their demands for self-determination.

"Self-determination means separation as far as we are concerned. To us, that is unacceptable," Ali Al Haj Mohammad, a senior member of the government team, told Reuters before the second day of talks got under way.

Dr. Haj, a political associate of Sudan's influential Islamic leader Hassan Tourabi, said "Yes" when asked if such demands could mean the end of the talks which opened on Tuesday in Nigeria's new capital.

He was speaking as Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida met leaders of the two factions of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) after talks with Colonel Mohammed Al Amin Khalifa, speaker of Sudan's transitional parliament.

Details of the meetings were not available but Dr. Haj said General Babangida was given a

message on the peace talks from Sudan's head of state, Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir.

Sources close to the delegations said talks had not resumed by early afternoon following SPLA demands that they be chaired by Nigeria.

Doubts over the durability of the talks emerged at the opening session when all three Sudanese sides showed public inflexibility and traded accusations bred from the long bush war in Sudan's south.

"Unless the Sudan government is ready to discuss a secular constitution and self-determination, I think this is the end," said R. Mulla, SPLA spokesman.

The SPLA's breakaway "Nasir" group has said it will not soften its demands for self-determination.

Dr. Haj, whose government is offering a federal system under which non-Muslims in the south would be exempt from Shariah (Islamic Law) said: "No Sudanese party or government in the north will dare to abrogate Shariah."

Security Council retains sanctions against Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The Security Council decided Wednesday to retain sanctions against Iraq saying Baghdad is still not meeting its obligations under Gulf war ceasefire resolutions.

The 15-member council held its regular bimonthly review of the sanctions that ban all trade with Iraq except for humanitarian supplies, and prohibit Iraq from producing chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

Security Council resolutions also require Iraq to disclose to U.N. inspectors all information about its arms programmes, and to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction.

Secretary-General Bontros Ghali on Tuesday released a U.N. inspection commission's report that said Iraq was not keeping its promises.

"The Iraqi authorities have not only deliberately misled the special commission by omission but have also actively falsified the evidence," said Rolf Ekeus, the commission's chairman.

His report said Baghdad had reneged on a promise to cooperate with the U.N. on long-term monitoring and verification

of its weapons programme;

— Tampered with the equipment of U.N. inspectors; and doctored documents.

Iraq apparently did provide accurate information about the destruction of its chemical weapons and has been generally cooperative in destroying its ballistic missiles and related factories, Mr. Ekeus added.

A U.N. inspection mission is in Iraq now to complete the destruction of Iraq's secret nuclear facility at Al Ather, 65 kilometres south of Baghdad, which was the core of its nuclear weapons programme.

"They have promised that they would give me answers to the questions... as of tomorrow," inspection team leader Dimitri Pericos told reporters after meeting Iraqi officials Tuesday.

The Iraqis also agreed to demolish buildings at Tarmiya, 300 kilometres north of Baghdad, Mr. Pericos said.

"These (buildings) have been identified in the past to have been connected with electro-magnetic isotope separation and enrichment process," the Greek expert

(Continued on page 5)

Crown Prince, Gonzalez hold talks

MADRID (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday met with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and reviewed with him Spanish-Jordanian relations and ways of bolstering them.

Prince Hassan and Mr. Gonzalez also discussed the Middle East peace process and the European role in it.

The two stressed the need to continue efforts in this regard to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Earlier, Crown Prince Hassan and Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath visited the historic city of Granada and toured its museum which displays Islamic art.

The Prince and Princess also viewed the city's various archaeological and artistic aspects relating to the history of Islamic culture in Andalusia — Spain under Islamic rule.

Minister of Tourism Yamil Hikmat accompanied the Crown Prince and Princess on the visit.

The Prince and Princess attended the opening of Jordan's cultural week at Seville exposition organised to coincide with Jordan's Independence Day anniversary.

Israeli-Lebanese clashes continue

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon, (Agencies) — Israeli forces and South Lebanon guerrillas clashed at each other on Wednesday, keeping up the fury of their tit-for-tat conflict.

Guerrillas set off a big roadside bomb aimed at an Israeli patrol. They earlier attacked a post manned by Israeli troops and their local militia allies.

Israeli gunners pounded villages in revenge.

"Shells are falling at a rate of four every minute," one source told Reuters. Columns of black smoke rose over the billy area. There was no immediate report of casualties on either side.

The Israeli army and the fundamentalist Hizbollah (Party of God) have been locked in clashes north of Israel's border less than a month before a general election in the Jewish state.

Seventeen people have been killed in Israeli raids which began on Thursday, two days after Hizbollah raided an Israeli allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) post.

Security sources said the roadside bomb exploded as an Israeli convoy drove along a military road to Beaufort Castle at the edge of a 15-kilometre deep strip of Lebanese territory that Israel



Her Royal Highness Princess Aysheh Bint Al Hussein and her husband with their newborn boy, who was named Awn (Petra photo)

Sixth grandchild born to King

AMMAN (J.T.) — The sixth grandchild of His Majesty King Hussein was born Wednesday. The boy was born to Her Royal Highness Princess Aysheh Bint

Al Hussein and Zaid Sa'uddin Jumaa, who were wed in July 1990.

Their Royal Highnesses Princesses Alia Bint Al Hussein — who has three children — Princess Zein — one — and Prince Faisal — one.

Lisbon talks review multilateral progress

LISBON (Agencies) — Senior officials from countries taking part in peace talks on the Middle East met on Wednesday to discuss regional cooperation from water sharing to refugees.

The Lisbon conference was set to assess progress achieved in five working groups in key areas set up last January and make recommendations for further progress.

These groups, which involve countries from outside the Middle East as well as Israel and its Arab neighbours, met for the first time earlier this month in cities around the world.

Leonardo Mathias, a Portuguese diplomat chairing Wednesday's meeting of a steering committee linking the five groups, said they had all achieved "small steps in the right direction."

He described the talks so far as confidence-building measures aimed at getting traditional foes in the Middle East to think in terms of cooperating with each other.

"It is enough for the parties to meet... their adversaries and to prepare for this in different areas in ways that contradict preparations for war," he told reporters.

The talks are designed to complement a separate series of bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Arab states on a

lasting political settlement for the region.

Both sets of talks are co-sponsored by the United States and Russia in a twin-track initiative launched last year.

The multilateral talks began in Moscow in January and involve the United States, Russia, the European Community, Japan and other countries with special expertise or interests as well as the Middle East states.

The Moscow conference set up five working groups focusing on specific areas of regional cooperation: The Middle East's scarce water resources, the environment, economic cooperation, Palestinian refugees and arms control.

Arab countries wanted new working groups on the status of Jerusalem and human rights in the occupied territories, while Israel wanted a working group on health, they said.

Western countries were also expected to press Syria and Lebanon to join the multilateral talks and to ask Israel to join two working groups which it is boycotting at present.

The two Arab states say there has been insufficient progress in the five bilateral rounds held so far to justify their participation in the multilateral talks.

Mojaddidi dismisses early elections call

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — The president of Afghanistan's new Islamic government, Sibghatullah Mojaddidi on Wednesday dismissed an agreement between rival rebel chiefs calling for elections within six months.

In an attempt to resolve Afghanistan's political crisis, renegade rebel leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar on Monday signed a peace pact with his bitter rival, Ahmad Shah Masood, calling for a ceasefire and elections in six months.

"As far as the election and other things it is the decision of the Afghan people," Mr. Mojaddidi told a news conference at Pakistan's National Assembly, just hours before leaving Islamabad for Kabul. He has winding up a two-day visit to the Pakistani capital.

"Maybe there is an agreement between those two, but we need the agreement of the Afghan people and that will come later," Mr. Mojaddidi said.

Questioning major parts of the Hekmatyar-Masood accord, Mr. Mojaddidi said elections could go ahead only when there was stability and people had been disarmed.

"Six months is not enough for the elections," he said. "Practically it is not possible. Maybe after one year or one-and-a-half years or two years it could be possible, but now the only way is the Jirga (Grand council) we shall call from the people."

Mr. Masood and Mr. Hekmatyar agreed that Mr. Mojaddidi would not be allowed to hang onto power beyond the two months envisioned when he took office in Kabul a month ago after former President Najibullah's government collapsed.

Mr. Mojaddidi told reporters there was popular demand for him to remain as president, although he was ready to hand over power to another guerrilla leader on schedule.

"It is not my demand. I am not asking for that. I am entirely tired. I want to deliver the power to my colleagues maybe before two months, but the people are insisting."

Under a formula worked out last month when the Najibullah administration unravelled, Mr. Mojaddidi is to hand over to Borhanuddin Rabbani at the end of June. Mr. Rabbani would rule until a selected council of notables chooses a new government by the end of September.

In Kabul, meanwhile, a senior officer in a militia that engineered the end of communist rule said Wednesday that his forces — and not the interim government — would decide when to withdraw from the Afghan capital.

Brigadier General Mohammad Nawab, the officer in charge of Kabul's security, said the predominantly Uzbek militia does not take direct orders from Defence Minister Masood or anyone in the new government.

Bush pledges strong U.S., hits isolationism

ANNAPOLIS (R) — President George Bush on Wednesday renewed his commitment to keep the United States militarily strong to meet unforeseen challenges in the post-cold war era and warned of the "folly" of isolationism.

"This I pledge as commander-in-chief: American forces will continue to be the best-trained, the best-equipped and the most battle-ready forces in the entire world. We owe it to the generations coming up," he said in a graduation speech at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Recalling the words of Winston Churchill, Britain's wartime prime minister who said after World War II that the great democracies had paid dearly for their isolationism in the 1930s, Mr. Bush said:

"Our challenge is to avoid the folly that Churchill warned of, to remain engaged in the world as a force for peace."

The president, a navy pilot in World War II, said his \$4 billion to \$6 billion plan for the Commonwealth of Independent States was essential to assure a safer world. The plan is part of a \$24 billion international effort to encourage political and economic reform in the former Soviet republics.

Asserting that transformation to democracy and free markets will affect every segment of American life, Mr. Bush declared: "The aid that I have requested is significant but is also

a tiny fraction of the \$4 trillion that this nation has spent to wage and win the cold war."

He called the collapse of communism "a watershed moment" that had drastically reduced the danger of a major new war in Europe and the threat of a nuclear holocaust. But he said that this did not mean the dawn of "an era of perpetual peace."

"Even in our new world, as old threats recede, new ones emerge," he said. "With the end of the East-West stand-off, ideology has given way to ethnicity as a key factor for conflict."

Right-wing Republican Patrick Buchanan embarrassed Mr. Bush by winning at least 30 per cent of the vote in some early primary elections (see page 8) with a campaign theme of "America first."

Mr. Buchanan's threat has since faded but Mr. Bush's support is still soft.

He told the graduates: "America is safest at home when we stand as a force for stability in the world. In many respects, reaffirming this truth in our new world may be the greatest challenge of all."

"More than once we've come late to conflict and turned back mortal threats to freedom. But as a nation, we have yet to prove that we can lead when there is no enemy on the doorstep," he said. "We have proved, and proved again, we can win the war and now we must wage the peace."

U.N. sanctions threaten democracy, Kurds say

ERBIL, Iraq (R) — A first order of business for Iraqi Kurdistan's newly elected parliament will be to ask the U.N. to modify sanctions Kurds say have crippled their economy. Kurdish leaders said on Wednesday.

"The U.N. sanctions are strangling our economy," said Mahmoud Osman, head of the Kurdistan Socialist Party. "If they aren't lifted it will be difficult to demonstrate the practical benefits of democracy to our people."

Kurdistan is gripped by twin embargoes: United Nations Gulf war trade sanctions against Iraq and Baghdad's seven-month economic and administrative blockade on a rebel-held territory in the north.

The result is 90 per cent unemployment in Kurdish cities, soaring food prices, endless petrol queues, and civil servants, including teachers, doctors and engineers, working without pay.

"People think our new parliament will solve many of these economic problems, but the election was not a panacea," said Hoshiyar Zebani, a senior official

of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

KDP leader Massoud Barzani won the most votes but not an absolute majority for paramount leader in results of Kurdistan's elections announced last week, forcing a runoff with his main rival, Jalal Talabani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). The parliament is tentatively due to hold its first meeting on June 1.

Rebel Kurdish forces took advantage of U.S.-led Western military protection to regain control over most of northern Iraq after Baghdad crushed their post-Gulf war rebellion last year.

When Kurdish autonomy negotiations with the Iraqi government deadlocked last fall, Baghdad imposed a blockade but the move backfired. Instead of capitulating, Kurds decided to establish a democratic basis for self-rule by holding free elections.

Mr. Zebani said the main problem with U.N. sanctions was that Security Council members do not want to give Kurdistan a status distinct from the rest of Iraq for fear of sparking separatist ambi-

tions.

"We must persuade them that our unique situation deserves a special response," he said.

Mr. Barzani supports U.N. sanctions to the extent they impair Iraq's military capabilities, but he does not favour restrictions on civilian goods because of the damage they do to the economy.

Factories in rebel-controlled northern Iraq are closed for want of raw materials and spare parts. The reconstruction of 4,000 Kurdish towns and villages is proceeding at a snail's pace because necessary equipment and building materials are banned.

Northern Iraq's two cigarette factories, one in Erbil and the other in Sulaymaniyah, are victims of U.N. sanctions. Both closed in late October after spare parts and raw materials ran out.

About 2,000 employees have been laid off. The factories have been selling finished cigarettes and raw tobacco from inventory to meet monthly payrolls averaging about 275 dinars (\$21) per person.

"These sanctions are very

bad," said Mahmoud Raqi Nakshbandi, the Erbil factory manager. "With parts and papers we can make a good profit and give money to help pay teachers and doctors in Erbil who are not receiving any salary."

Shiites back Kurdish elections

An Iraqi Shiite opposition group said on Tuesday it supported last week's elections in rebel-held northern Iraq so long as they did not threaten national unity.

"We have supported the election in Iraqi Kurdistan since its conception provided that it is held within the Iraqi people's national unity and the unity of Iraq's soil," the Tehran-based Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) said in a statement.

"Despite the hard political circumstances in Kurdistan and the absence of central administration, the Iraqi people in Kurdistan exercised the right to express their will and freedom in a way that deserved admiration," SCIRI said.

U.N., U.S. call for restraint in Mideast

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United Nations and the United States have expressed concern over the escalation of violence in the Middle East, and called for restraint on all sides.

"The (U.N.) secretary-general, (Boutros Ghali), is deeply concerned by the recent escalation of violence in the Middle East in which Israelis, Lebanese and Palestinians have been killed and injured. He deplores the loss of innocent life," a statement issued through a U.N. spokesman said.

"The secretary-general believes that a continuation of hostilities can only heighten tensions in the region and might even jeopardise the efforts that are presently under way to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. The urges all sides to exercise restraint so that the momentum achieved thus far in the peace process may be sustained," the statement continued.

Violence erupted in southern Lebanon last week when Palestinian Hizbollah fighters attacked positions of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA), killing an SLA man and capturing four others.

Israeli planes and helicopters have launched repeated raids against Hizbollah targets in southern Lebanon and in the Syrian-occupied Bekaa Valley, killing at least 17 people.

In addition, three Islamic activists and an Israeli border policeman were killed in a shootout in the Gaza Strip on Sunday, touching off two days of clashes in which Israeli troops wounded scores of Palestinians.

An Israeli girl was stabbed to death on Sunday by a resident of Gaza, unleashing a wave of violence against Arabs.

On Monday, Palestinians in the Gaza Strip killed a man they accused of collaborating with Israel.

The United States Tuesday urged Israel, Syria and Lebanon to exercise maximum restraint and end a dangerous escalation of tension in the Middle East.

"We are in touch with the Israelis, the Lebanese and the Syrian governments on this latest escalation of violence, and we have once again reiterated the need to exercise maximum restraint," said a State Department spokesman Richard Boucher.

Mr. Boucher said the United States had encouraged "people who have influence on Hizbollah" to use it to end the violence. He would say if this meant that Washington had been in indirect contact with Iran.

"We believe that peace and security cannot be found on the battlefield. And we've done everything we can to support the peace process," he said.

Terminal ready to load oil tankers, Iraq says

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's oil export terminal at Mina Al Bakr at the head of the Gulf is ready to load tankers at a rate of 800,000 barrels a day (bpd) as soon as Iraq and the United Nations agree on resuming oil sales, an official said.

"Three loading platforms have been repaired and are now ready to supply tankers with oil," Oil Ministry Under-Secretary Faiz Shaheen told Al Thawra, the ruling Baath Party newspaper, in an interview published on Wednesday.

He said one more platform needed repairing for the terminal to reach full export capacity of 1.6 million bpd.

"One hundred and twenty engineers and technicians are working round the clock to reconstruct the fourth platform," Mr. Shaheen said. He expected them to complete it by July.

Iraq has not exported significant amounts of crude since the United Nations imposed sanctions in response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Limited exports could resume if Iraq accepts U.N. restrictions on how it uses the territory. It is the second time Iraq has made massive repairs to the terminal, which was damaged in the Iraq-Iran war of 1980 to 1988 and again in the Gulf war over Kuwait

in 1991.

Mr. Shaheen said it paid a U.S. company \$150 million to do partial repairs after the Iran-Iraq war but gave no details of the cost of the latest project.

Iraq says it has already repaired the 50-kilometer underwater pipeline to the tanker terminal at Mina Al Bakr, which was disabled by air raids in the Gulf war.

Mr. Shaheen said U.N. Security Council resolutions 706 and 712, which allow Iraq to export limited amounts of oil under tight U.N. controls, persuaded the Iraqis to take urgent steps to reconstruct Mina Al Bakr.

"We found ourselves in a tight corner when resolutions 706 and 712 were issued," he said.

"There was an intention to blackmail us by doubling the transit fees," he said, referring to Turkish conditions for Iraq to use pipelines passing through Turkish territory.

"Thus we had to take the initiative and reconstruct Mina Al Bakr," he added.

If oil sales resumed, Iraq would use its own oil tankers, Mr. Shaheen said.

Iraq has so far rejected the conditions attached to the U.N. resolutions, saying they violate Iraqi sovereignty.

Pro-regime candidate gets seat in Kuwaiti chamber

KUWAIT (Agencies) — The state-run Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) has issued corrected election results that give one seat on the board of the Chamber of Commerce in a pro-government candidate.

On Tuesday, the agency had reported that opposition candidates of the economic family group, headed by Abdul Aziz Al Saqr, had won all 24 seats.

But late in the night, Khaled Al Marzuq, head of the government-backed Kuwaiti Citizens Bloc, the agency apologised for the error.

Mr. Marzuq collected 4,182 votes compared to 5,516 for Mr. Saqr.

About 11,500 Kuwaiti merchants and businessmen voted in the elections, which were considered an indicator of opposition strength in the run-up to parliamentary elections this autumn.

The near-complete opposition sweep was seen as a blow to the government of the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

The Kuwaiti opposition calls

for democratic reforms.

It claims the government politicised the chamber elections in a failed attempt to topple Mr. Saqr, who has headed the chamber for 35 years.

Mr. Saqr, a leading member of a family which controls the liberal daily Al Qabas, and his supporters represent the traditional merchant class that has been the backbone of political opposition to the ruling Al Sabah family.

Information Minister Badr Jassem Al Yacoub, denied, however, that the emir had supported Mr. Saqr's opponents.

"What news agencies — especially Reuters — reported on the chamber elections (concerning the emir) was completely untrue," he said.

"Involving the name of the emir in these issues completely contradicts the policy taken by the emir not to interfere in these matters," he added.

Both government and opposition campaigned vigorously ahead of the vote, the first in Kuwait since Western and Arab forces drove Iraqi troops out of the emirate in February last year.

Tehran says relations with Bern will suffer

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran warned Wednesday that relations with Switzerland will suffer following Bern's extradition to France of an Iranian suspected in the murder of Shapour Bakhtiari, the last prime minister of the late Shah.

State-run Tehran Radio said in a commentary that the Swiss ambassador in Tehran, Anton Greber, has been informed that the extradition "will affect Iranian relations with Switzerland."

The radio, monitored in Nicosia, did not elaborate.

Iranian officials have been trying to pressure Switzerland and France for months to free Ziaul Abedin Saradi, who was arrested Dec. 23 outside the Iranian embassy in Bern.

Anti-Western Iranian radicals have suggested imposing an embargo against French businesses involved in multinational-dollar projects in Iran.

Ahmad, a hardline Iranian daily, said the Swiss move was meant to prove that Bern was "a reliable party for anti-Iranian plots of the West."

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), also monitored in Nicosia, quoted the Farsi-language daily as saying that the "Iranian people will keep in mind this conspiracy."

Mr. Greber was called to the Foreign Ministry in Tehran Tuesday to hear an official protest.

French Ambassador Hubert Colin de Verdiere was also summoned to hear an official demand for Mr. Saradi's "immediate release," the radio reported earlier.

The commentary Wednesday said Mr. Saradi's extradition had "political dimensions."

Swiss police handed Mr. Saradi, 25, to French authorities at Basel airport after Switzerland's

highest court, the Federal Tribunal, upheld his extradition.

The Federal Tribunal ruled that Mr. Saradi could be charged with complicity in murder, but not a companion charge of criminal conspiracy cited in the French request, according to Swiss Justice Ministry spokesman, Juerg Kistler.

French investigators want to question Mr. Saradi about alleged complicity in the murder of Mr. Bakhtiari, who was killed Aug. 6 at his exile home in a Paris suburb.

French Authorities have said three Iranian men killed Mr. Bakhtiari. One of them, Ali Rad Vakil, was arrested near Geneva last Aug. 21 and was extradited shortly afterwards.

The two other principal suspects remain at large.

France accuses Mr. Saradi of helping prepare the murder, renting an apartment for the assassins and aiding their flight to Switzerland.

Following Mr. Saradi's arrest, Iran said he was an embassy employee entitled to diplomatic immunity. Switzerland said he had been staying at the embassy since September on a tourist visa.

France sought Mr. Saradi's extradition shortly after his arrest. Swiss authorities agreed in February but gave him a chance to appeal.

Mr. Saradi was the fourth Iranian arrested in connection with Mr. Bakhtiari's murder.

In addition to Ali Vakil, Masoud Hendi was arrested in a Paris hotel on Sept. 17, was charged with arranging for two of the three suspected killers to obtain visas.

The other detainee, a woman, was alleged to have been a member of Iranian intelligence who helped the killers in Paris.

24 Turkish soldiers and Kurds killed in fighting

ISTANBUL (R) — Separatist rebel Kurds killed 14 Turkish soldiers in a cross-border raid, prompting Turkish air strikes which killed at least 10 guerrillas inside Iraq, a Turkish official said on Wednesday.

"Several hundred rebels came with rockets and mortars and killed 14 of our soldiers," said the emergency rule official in the southeastern provincial capital of Diyarbakir.

The rebel attack on Tuesday occurred near the village of Uzunlu in Hakkari province bordering Iraq.

He said Turkish planes and helicopter gunships, attacked

guerrillas of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) at the group's Durji camp in northern Iraq, eight kilometres south of the rugged frontier.

At least 10 PKK rebels were killed, the official said.

"Our troops are now combing the mountains. The PKK's death toll is likely to rise," he added.

The group's eight-year independence war has cost nearly 3,800 lives in the impoverished south-east.

The official said 14 Turkish soldiers were also wounded in PKK's attack on the Uzunlu gendarmerie post, facing Iraq across the Great Zab River.

U.N. rejects Sudanese bid for exemption from Libya ban

UNITED NATIONS (R) — A Security Council committee monitoring sanctions against Libya on Tuesday rejected a request from Sudan to be exempted from having to apply them, a committee source said.

The decision was taken at a regular closed-door meeting.

The sanctions went into force when Libya failed to meet an April 15 deadline to hand over for trial in the United States or Britain two men indicted in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, which exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988.

The mandatory sanctions require all countries to cut air links with Libya, observe an arms embargo and reduce the size of Libyan diplomatic missions abroad.

In a letter to the committee seeking exemption from applying the sanctions, Sudan said it was in the process of integrating its economy with Libya's with the eventual aim of uniting the two countries.

It also said the severing of air links caused difficulties for the hundreds of thousands of Sudanese working in Libya while the reduction in diplomatic staffs would also adversely affect them.

The committee source said it was decided that since Sudan was a U.N. member it was obliged to apply the sanctions.

Some members were said to have taken the view privately, without saying it in the committee, that if Sudan united with Libya it, too, would become a target of the sanctions.

Saudi envoy's residence looted again in Kabul

KABUL (AP) — Armed handits ransacked the residence of Saudi Arabia's ambassador for the fifth time, the latest in a string of attacks against foreign missions and aid organisations, diplomats said Wednesday.

The handits overpowered the guard at the Saudi residence in southeastern Kabul on Monday night, broke furniture and stole the few small items that had been left in the house, the diplomats said.

The guard was tied, blindfolded, and threatened but not harmed, the sources said.

The interim Islamic government condemned the robbery and called it "an act of sabotage" designed to harm the new regime's relationship with Riyadh.

Saudi Arabia gave billions of dollars to the Mujahadeen in the 14-year war against successive governments installed by the former Soviet Union.

But Riyadh has not reopened its mission since the rebel government replaced ousted President Najibullah's regime last month. France oversees Saudi Arabia's interests in Afghanistan.

Earlier this month, masked bandits armed with automatic rifles scaled the three high walls of the Saudi mission and stole two Mercedes Benz cars, several pairs

of Gucci shoes and about 20 expensive carpets.

Some Mujahadeen groups have blamed rebel fighters backed by Iran, Saudi Arabia's rival. But diplomats and government officials believe it was probably independent groups trying to take advantage of the disorder and lack of security in the capital since the Islamic interim government took over on April 28.

Kabul has been divided among the dozen diverse rebel factions, each responsible for maintaining law and order in its area. But within each party, commanders with their own armed forces often act independently.

Despite the interim government's insistence that Kabul's security has improved, diplomats and most rebel groups say the new administration has been unable to stop the violence.

In the past week, the Egyptian embassy has been ransacked and about 300,000 Afghans (\$600) and a half dozen carpets taken.

The house reserved for the U.S. deputy chief of mission, the number two ranking American diplomat in Kabul, was robbed.

Rebel groups also have hijacked U.N. cars and taken over houses of U.N. workers evacuated from Kabul before the rebels stormed the city.

Morocco opposition demands basic reform

RABAT (R) — Five Moroccan opposition parties said on Tuesday they would strive for profound reform of the constitution to give more power to the people and parliament in a real democracy.

King Hassan has promised to put a new draft constitution to a popular vote and to hold free and honest elections this year after changes in the electoral law.

At a news conference, the leaders of the five opposition groups, who banded together last week in a democratic bloc, issued a joint charter demanding full guarantees "to create a climate of confidence in the electoral process, and ensure their free and honest character."

They said, however, that the bloc was "absolutely not an electoral front or a distinct coalition to win votes."

Abdel Rahman Al Yousfi, first secretary of the Socialist Union of People's Forces (USFP) and a veteran opposition leader, said the front had not decided its electoral tactics.

The party leaders stressed the need for an honest poll and the advent of "true democracy on the political, economic, social and cultural levels."

They have charged that previous votes, including the last parliamentary elections in 1984, were rigged to produce a rubber-stamp assembly.

The USFP is allied in the front with the old-guard nationalist Istiqlal Party, the Communist

Party of Progress and Socialism, and two minor leftist groups, the National Union of People's Forces and the Organisation for Democratic and Popular Action.

The parties said their front was designed to achieve "a profound constitutional reform... the separation of powers... and a government answerable to the chamber of representatives."

Under the present constitution the government is appointed by the king and answerable to the monarch who also names most senior officials like magistrates, ambassadors and governors.

The parties also demanded "the liberation of all prisoners of opinion and those jailed for their political or trade union activities, the return of exiles and the reintegration of dismissed workers."

Human rights groups have said there are still up to 800 political prisoners in Morocco after the release of more than 400 last year.

Diplomats at the news conference said they doubted the five parties could agree on a joint electoral strategy because they were basically rivals.

"Their political programmes and their ideologies are quite different. I cannot see them agreeing on a common political platform to run the government and the country," an African ambassador told Reuters.

"What we are seeing is a pressure group to persuade the king it is time to delegate some of his powers," he added.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Opposition slams Moroccan role in E. Guinea

DAKAR (R) — Equatorial Guinea's main opposition party on Tuesday accused Moroccan soldiers based in the former Spanish colony of imposing a reign of terror and torturing critics of the regime. "Moroccan soldiers are sowing terror in the capital Malabo, Bata, Niefang and the rest of the country," said Aquilino Nguema Oua Mchama, secretary of the Union for Democracy and Social Development. "No one can show his discontent, criticise the way the country is being run or denounce the presence of this foreign army without being tortured," he told delegates from 80 political parties and organisations in Dakar for the Pan-African Conference on Democracy and Transition in Africa. Singling out the president's "Praetorian Guard," for special criticism, he said the 800 Moroccan soldiers in Equatorial Guinea were helping President Theodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo perpetuate a single party regime and hold up democratic reforms. Morocco provides the country with a presidential guard, while Spain provides military advisers and training.

Bahrain to host Iranian trade fair

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain will host an Iranian trade fair for the first time in June, the official Gulf News Agency said on Wednesday. More than 250 Iranian firms, displaying products ranging from carpets and leather to marble and textiles, would take part in the event, scheduled for June 20-26, the agency said. The announcement was made during a visit by Iran's commerce Minister Abdul Hussein Vahhajl. Relations between Bahrain and Iran have improved dramatically as a result of Tehran's opposition to Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait and its neutral stand during the Gulf war. Trade between the two countries has grown steadily since direct sea and air links were opened during 1990.

Bahrain to sign pact with Uzbekistan

BAHRAIN (R) — A Bahraini delegation headed for the Muslim republics of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan on Wednesday to sign accords marking the establishment of formal political ties, a Russian embassy spokesman said. Bahrain last year declared its intention to open diplomatic links with the two states and has already signed a similar accord with the Republic of Turkmenistan. The Russian embassy in Bahrain would continue to handle contacts between the island and other republics of the former Soviet Union until embassies were established on both sides, the spokesman said. Bahrain was expected to sign an accord with Ukraine next month. Bahrain's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Sheikh Isa Ben Mohammad Isa Al Khalifa, was leading the delegation.

Israel, Belarus forge ties

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel and Belarus established diplomatic relations on Tuesday, the Israeli foreign ministry said. Belarus Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich signed the agreement with Foreign Minister David Levy.

Turkey recalls Belgrade envoy

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey has recalled to Ankara its ambassador to Belgrade for consultations on Serbian attacks in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Turkish Television said on Wednesday. Turkey has repeatedly urged stronger United Nations action to solve the conflicts in Yugoslavia where more than 2,000 people died in two months of ethnic fighting touched off by Bosnia's secession from the Serb-dominated federation in March.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Doc: "Sanctuaries Sauvages"
18:30 Maguy
19:00 News in French
19:15 Le Cirque
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 The Simpsons
21:10 N.B.A. match
22:00 News in English
22:20 Music of the Week: "The Maid"

PRAYER TIMES

03:55 Fajr
05:27 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:31 Dhur
16:13 'Asr
19:38 Maghreb
21:10 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish
Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 623383. Tel. 62543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711311.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 715261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 711751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 627981, 685256.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824 and 654932.
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be hot and dry and winds will be northeasterly moderate. In Asqala, it will be dusty with northerly moderate winds and calm seas.

	Min./max. temp.
Amman	19 / 33
Asqala	23 / 40
Desert	14 / 34
Jordan Valley	22 / 39

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 34, Asqala 41, Humidity readings: Amman 12 per cent, Asqala 17 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Youssef Rashed 894301
Dr. Adnan Zaghoul 898140
Dr. Youssef Al Fajli 657009
Dr. Sabeeh Tounous 898003
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637025
Nairoudh pharmacy 63672
Al Salam pharmacy 636720
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Tajul (—)
Al Shamsa pharmacy (983238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Randa Shalhin (—)

Khalif pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341



QUEEN ATTENDS FESTIVAL — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein Wednesday attended a festival organized by the Fine Arts Department at the Faculty of Education and Arts at Yarmouk University, marking the department's 10th Education anniversary. The Queen opened a number of exhibitions designed and organized by the department teachers and students. The exhibitions display graphic and industrial designs and others for photographic and plastic arts as well as aspects of sculpture and ceramics. Later, the Queen attended a musical performance and a play at the department and was briefed by Dr. Inas Al Rahadi on the various efforts made to prepare and organize the exhibitions. Irbid governor and other dignitaries were present at the festival. (Petra photo)

Several JPA members sign petition for meeting to discuss fate of committee

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Over a third of the General Assembly of the 231-member Jordan Press Association (JPA) have signed a petition for an emergency meeting of the assembly to discuss the fate of its non-functioning Executive Committee in what may be a step to pressure the president of the association to resign and hold premature elections.

Sources close to the effort to circulate the petition to member journalists said that 85 members have already signed (only 71 signatures are necessary) and that this number may rise to 100 in the next two days.

The petitioners will present the document to Mr. Khreisat "within the next two days," in the hope that he will take note of their request and resign before any more pressure is exercised.

The signing of the petition began ten days ago after attempts to contain internal strife and avoid new Executive Committee elections through compromise efforts to restore unity to the organization.

A mediating committee, which had spent some 20 hours consulting with the different sides last week, failed to help the sides reach a compromise which would allow the current

Executive Committee to remain in its post for another ten months at which time their two-year term would be over.

The committee had recommended that the General Assembly turn to the government to disband the Executive Committee and open the road for new elections. However, this suggestion was dropped after members of the association insisted they find a way to solve their problems without government interference.

The festering problems of JPA had led to the resignation of five members of the Executive Committee in protest against the lack of progress in the running of its affairs leading to a showdown between the resigned members and Mr. Khreisat that left the committee redundant since decisions can only be taken in a meeting where six members are present.

According to several members of the association interviewed by the Jordan Times since the problems first erupted three weeks ago, the recurrent financial problems of the association, the chronic in-house fighting and what they described as the lack of a proper and democratic decision-making process have brought the association to its knees both financially and politically.

Critics of the resigned members have said that Mr. Khreisat's task as president had been made difficult by the internal feud between two feuding camps which were elected to the Executive Committee and that his attempts at balancing his act between the two sides have allowed them to "eventually use him as the scapegoat for their own failure to unite."

But most journalists contacted by the Jordan Times have expressed dissatisfaction with the association and the complaints have ranged from the lack of its political significance as a professional association to selectivity in admitting members and archaic laws which have hindered the progress of journalists in general.

Mr. Khreisat, in an earlier interview with the Jordan Times, admitted that the association was facing problems but added that many of them were inherited problems which had not even been addressed until he was elected to his post.

He maintained that he had been able to register a number of gains for the association both financially and morally but that the lack of cooperation from members of the Executive Committee had delayed the finalisation of these issues.

Premier receives Omani envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Wednesday conferred in his office with Omani Minister of Justice, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Hmoud Ben Abdullah Al Harithi on means of promoting cooperation between Oman and Jordan in religious and judicial fields.

The prime minister listened to the Omani envoy and his Jordanian counterpart Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi about the agenda of their talks designed to bolster Omani-Jordanian cooperation.

The meeting was attended by a delegation accompanying the Omani minister on his visit to Amman.

Sheikh Harithi arrived in Amman Wednesday on a three-day visit to Jordan to convey a message to His Majesty King Hussein from Sultan Qaboos of Oman and to hold talks with government officials.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the envoy will convey a verbal message to the King, but he gave no details.

In a statement upon arrival here, Sheikh Harithi paid tribute to the existing historic ties between Oman and Jordan, noting that bilateral relations are being strengthened through the efforts of the two leaders.

He said that Sultan Qaboos had instructed him to do all he could to further bolster ties with Jordan and maintain coordination between Jordan and Oman at the highest levels.

In his visit to Jordan, Sheikh Harithi said he would discuss issues of common concern, especially in matters related to the Judiciary and Awqaf and Islamic affairs.

Sheikh Harithi said that Jordan enjoys vast experience in judicial and Islamic affairs, and Oman hopes to benefit from them as much as possible.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi and other government officials, as well as the Omani ambassador here, welcomed the Omani minister upon his arrival.



APPLE COMPUTER OPENS EXHIBITION — Under the patronage of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Apple's fifth Computer Expo, organized by Ideal Systems Co., opened at the Amman Marriott Hotel Wednesday. A number of international companies from Dubai, Egypt, France, England and Lebanon exhibited their products, in addition to some local companies which presented their organization works on Apple Macintosh which presents the complete Macintosh family, including the new Macintosh Quadra and Powerbooks. Along with these hard-core machines, there was a large number of peripherals and accessories including Apple's latest printers collection. Accompanying activities include seminars covering a large number of computer applications including business, graphics, relational data base, publishing, engineering, education, and multimedia applications. For the first time in Jordan, a hands-on area was set up where visitors could experience working on the Macintosh on their own. The exhibition is open daily to the public for three days (28, 29, 30/5/92) from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. and from 4:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.



PSD HOLDS CEREMONY — A graduation ceremony for military, weapons and military trainers courses was held Wednesday at the Royal Police Academy in the presence of Public Security Department (PSD) Deputy Director for Operations, Planning and Training Major-General Abdul Rahman Al Edwan. Maj.-Gen. Edwan delivered an address in which he commended the distinguished level attained by the PSD personnel. He said policemen in Jordan enjoy a reputation unprecedented in the region because of their effective role in combating crimes. He said these courses held at the academy fall within the PSD's efforts to develop its training and cultural programmes and enhance the performance of its personnel. At the end of the ceremony, which was attended by several senior officers, Maj.-Gen. Edwan distributed certificates to graduates. (Petra photo).

Cotecno
Italian Agency for Technical Cooperation to Development requires
Secretary with the following characteristics:
- Fluent in Arabic/English.
- Typing and P.C. operating.
- At least 2 years experience.
- Dynamic.
Candidates will send C.V. before 4. 6. 1992 to P.O.Box 9800 - Amman to the attention Dr. Garavelli.

ITALY - JORDAN TECHNICAL COOPERATION
Salt Handicraft Training Centre
The Salt HTC requires
Ceramists and weavers to be trained to become trainers of the centre.
Applicants should have the following requisites:
- At least community college degree.
- Documented experience in the field of ceramic or weaving.
- Fluent English is a must.
Qualified candidates just submit C.V. at the Salt HTC tel. 05/551781 before 8.6.1992.

King inaugurates first phase of housing estate

ZARQA (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday inaugurated the first phase of the Batrawi Housing Estate in the Zarqa Governorate, which benefits some 6,000 people, most of whom are limited-income groups and employees.

The first phase of the project, which is being set up on 220 dunams of land, comprises 342 flats of three categories, while the other phase, which is still to be built, will have a total of 267 housing units.

The project is being implemented by the Housing and Urban Development Department which said that 80 per cent of the beneficiaries are government employees while the rest are expatriates returning from the Gulf region.

Department officials said that the project will have a shopping centre, two schools and an open land for services.

Addressing the ceremony was Minister of Public Works and Housing Saad Hayel Al Sraur who welcomed the King and said that the inauguration of the project was part of the country's celebrations of its independence anniversary.

This major housing scheme and the King's attendance at the ceremony reflect his keenness on providing for his people and the ongoing development process in the Kingdom.

In reviewing the ministry's achievements in housing and urban development, the minister said that the Kingdom now has more than 6,000 kilometre of roads, and 4,400 agricultural kilometres of agricultural roads and that the ministry spends nearly JD 60 million annually on the roads and the construction of public buildings.

Referring to housing, the



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday inaugurates the first phase of the Batrawi Housing Estate (photo by Youssef Al Alan)

minister said that in 1985 the ministry prepared a national strategy on housing in Jordan and specialised committees worked in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning and other departments to prepare the study.

The studies conducted by the committees on housing needs presented sufficient information and indications to help the ministry carry out its business in the coming two decades, the minister pointed out.

He said that the studies revealed the need for the government to direct its attention to the low-income groups and to give a greater role to the private sector in housing.

Housing and Urban Development Department Director Youssef Hiyasat told the audience that a total of 80 projects of 15,000 units have been set up by the department at the total cost of JD 160 million, benefitting 120,000 citizens.

The department also implemented projects for existing

housing estates of which five are in Amman and two in Aqaba, benefitting the low-income groups of 130,000 citizens at the cost of JD 85 million, Mr. Hiyasat noted.

The returning expatriates are allotted 20 per cent of the total number of housing units carried out by the Housing and Urban Development Department, Mr. Hiyasat noted.

Altogether, the department plans to build some 4,000 housing units during 1992, noted Mr. Hiyasat.

King Hussein presented the ministry's shield to former ministers of public works and ministry employees in recognition of their efforts.

The King also presented deed certificates to the beneficiaries of the housing estates in Batrawi, Ruseifa and Manara districts.

Present at the ceremony were Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief of the Royal Court Khalid Al Karaki and other dignitaries.

Ministry releases report on unemployment

AMMAN (Petra) — By the end of 1991, there were 128,659 registered unemployed persons in Jordan, accounting for 18.9 per cent of the country's total workforce which is 680,000, according to statistical report released by the Labour Ministry's Research Department.

The report said that unemployment began to be acutely felt in Jordan towards the end of the 1980s as a result of the difficult economic circumstances facing Jordan and the return of hundreds of thousands of expatriates in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

The Ministry of Labour Research Department conducted a survey covering 400 citizens picked at random from various parts of the country, representing different classes of people.

The survey, conducted in cooperation with the employment offices and the Civil Service Commission (CSC), which normally receives applications from job-seekers, covered only those registered unemployed persons. It said that the first 200 of those in the survey were interviewed by phone while the rest were invited to the Amman Employment Office where they were interviewed and asked to fill the survey's questionnaires.

The average age of the targeted group proved to be 28, of whom the males constituted 69.5 per cent, the married job-seekers were 43.5 per cent of the total, the report noted.

The poll revealed that more than 33 per cent of the group have not been working for less than a year, while the rest have not worked for the past three years or more.

According to the report, 22.5 per cent of the group worked abroad and 70 per cent of the group are willing to go wherever they are called for work.

A total of 44 per cent of the group are willing to obtain land from the state under a lease in order to develop it and grow food, according to the survey. It said that 44 per cent of the total number are willing to take up a job not within their specialisations and that more than 70 per cent are willing to take up training courses offered by the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC).

The report said that only a little more than 13 per cent of the group are willing to work for less

than JD 70 a month, while the rest accept JD 150 or more as a monthly salary.

The report included a recommendation calling on the concerned authorities and businesses to give priority in employment to Jordanian job-seekers, but at the same time, it called attention to the need to deal with the problem of long hours and little wages given to the Jordanian workers.

The non-Jordanian, it said, accepts low-level salaries for the same type of work.

The report also noted that employers tend to dispose of workers who become sick without any prior warning and that many of the workers have to pay for their own medical treatment.

Most of the workers prefer to work for the public sector where they can have secured jobs, but they also noted that most of the companies and factories offer meagre wages that cannot make both ends meet, said the survey.

The report called for increased attention to be given to the problem of unemployment in the Jordanian media with a view to calling the public's attention for finding ways to solve this chronic and dangerous problem.

Education symposium urges use of technology

AMMAN (J.T.) — A ten-day symposium on promoting basic education through the media, especially by television, ended here Wednesday with a statement urging concerned parties to increase the use of modern technology to develop education, particularly at the basic stage to help eradicate illiteracy.

The symposium, organised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in cooperation

with the Ministry of Education, was attended by delegates from 10 Arab states who reviewed 12 working papers and dwelt on topics related to promoting basic education in the Arab World.

The statement urged UNESCO to increase its training courses for those involved in providing television programmes for students at the basic stage and those involved in eradicating illiteracy in the Arab World. The statement urged UNESCO to organise competi-

tions and offer awards for those excelling in the process of promoting education and called on the organisation to back Arab states' educational programmes beamed through to Arab children in the occupied Arab lands.

Dr. Ibrahim Al Akash, director of the Curricula Department at the Ministry of Education, voiced appreciation to UNESCO for its efforts to promote education.

Humanitarian delegation focuses on the suffering of the Iraqi people

By Cosima Hadidi
Special to the Jordan Times

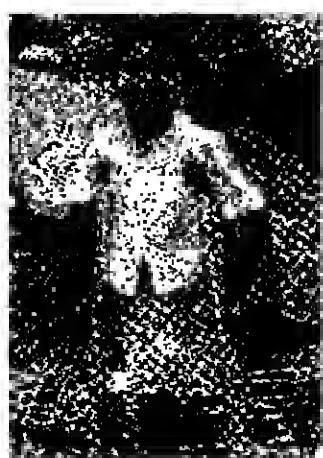
AMMAN — The world may think that the Gulf war ended sixteen months ago, but for the Iraqi people it still goes on until sanctions are lifted, enabling them to fulfill their basic needs.

"In 1992, the war in Iraq is a human war waged against children," said Christine Oram, an Iraqi-American. Ms. Oram is chairperson and founder of the Iraqi-American Humanitarian Delegation, a non-profit organisation dealing with the human suffering resulting from the breakdown of the public health and food supply systems in Iraq following the Gulf war.

"We are completely non-political, and our only concern is the suffering of 18 million people in Iraq, on which the world cannot turn its back," Ms. Oram said.

The Iraqi-American Humanitarian Delegation consists of volunteers who have visited Iraq after the war and met with U.S. senators, congressmen and other decision makers to communicate to them the situation of the Iraqi people and the impact of the sanctions that deprive Iraq of the means to help itself.

Members of the delegation visited Iraq last year and Ms.



A handicapped Iraqi child

Oram testified before the U.S. House of Representatives' Select Committee on Hunger in March this year. In her testimony, she described the situation in Iraqi children's hospitals. "I saw an eight-year old boy lying on a vinyl-covered bench. He was screaming in agony while his father and an assistant held him down so that the doctor could stitch an abdominal wound in a germ-filled environment. The boy cried out to his mother, 'Mom, momma, come to me please.' She was sitting on a chair weeping. The doctor had no anesthesia for the surgery."

In the same hospital, Ms. Oram saw a one-year old boy with a respiratory infection and a severe case of dehydration; his mother said that the doctors could not help him because they lacked the necessary laboratory equipment to diagnose his illness.

Ms. Oram also witnessed severe cases of malnutrition and children dying because of lack of equipment in the hospitals. In many areas of Iraq, she saw families that drank, washed and fished in rivers flowing thick with raw sewage. "The Iraqi people have been sentenced to a slow death. It's the kind of death that doesn't lead to massive body counts in one single place, but extends from remote villages in the north to small towns in the south. The children die at home. It doesn't look like war," Ms. Oram said.

In general, the American people responded with great compassion to the plight of the Iraqi people, said Ms. Oram, a member of the delegation. "We received thousands of letters from Americans who felt responsible for what has happened in Iraq and who apologized to us for the situation. One American artist has devoted a lot of time to drawing pictures and postcards of the life in Iraq and the suffering of the Iraqi people," she said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings by five Malaysian artists at the National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jabel Luwibek.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Ali Taleb and Rafiq Nasiri at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — (10 a.m. - 8 p.m.).

★ Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artist Abdul Jabbar Salama at Alfa Art Gallery.

★ Exhibition of watercolours by Jordanian artist Laith Al Bustani at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of paintings by the Nazareth School students at the French Cultural Centre.

GARAGE SALE

★ A charity garage sale (organised by the American Women of Amman) on Friday at Al Hussein Society, Mecca Street (11 a.m.-4 p.m.).

FILM

★ Feature film entitled "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" at the American Centre — 7 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Moral and legal

THE CALL, Monday, of the Arab League's secretary general, Dr. Esmat Abdul Meguid, on the international community to ease the economic sanctions on Iraq is both morally and legally right. From a strictly legal point of view, Baghdad has by and large accepted and implemented all the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions adopted against it in the aftermath of its invasion and occupation of Kuwait in 1990. It is only logical therefore to reciprocate this Iraqi cooperation with the council by, at least, easing the sanctions against it in a way proportional to its adherence and execution of the U.N. resolutions on the Gulf crisis.

Instead of doing just that, the council members have ignored every element of Iraqi cooperation as if Baghdad had done nothing to show respect for international legitimacy. Even if one wants to entertain the claim that the Iraqi implementation of the relevant resolutions is not complete, there is, on the other hand, a consensus that the Iraqi government has gone indeed a long way to heed the stiff rules applied against it by the Security Council.

Surely Iraq deserves to be commended for the extent it had gone to meet the requirements of the international organisation and, in turn, be compensated to that extent at least. The secretary general of the Arab League may have been thinking along these lines when he broke the Arab silence on the Iraqi situation by making a bold plea for reducing the sanctions against that Arab country.

On moral and humanitarian grounds, there are also compelling reasons in favour of softening the punishment still being meted against Baghdad. There is hardly one international or regional humanitarian organisation, including many church groups, that has not voiced deep concern at the plight of the Iraqi people who ended up paying for their leaders' actions as well as for the mistaken judgements of many powerful countries on the Gulf crisis that erupted almost two years ago. The still applicable economic sanctions against Iraq are of course hurting most of all the innocent Iraqi people, especially the children. By what moral right can the members of the Security Council keep on punishing the people of Iraq the way they do? There must be an end to this cruelty and the pronouncements by Dr. Meguid to ease the sanctions against Iraq are a clear expression of the prevailing Arab perspective and feeling about this issue.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR said Wednesday that the Israelis are creating a war-like atmosphere through their constant and repeated threats to Syria and Lebanon and through their continued aggression on Southern Lebanese territory. This escalation of tension is bound to enflame the whole Middle East and endanger world peace, said the paper. It seems that Israel is trying through its current campaign on Lebanon for many years to come, on the one hand, and to prevent any resistance activity against Israeli presence in southern Lebanon on the other, said the daily. The paper said that Israel is perhaps aiming, through the current campaign, to end the presence of Syrian troops in Lebanon, paving the ground for a new round of civil strife in Lebanon which is still trying to catch its breath following years of civil fighting. With acts, the Israelis seem to be ignoring the ongoing peace process and indeed trying to abort any plans to bring about a lasting peace to the area, the paper continued. The Israelis hope through their aggression to force Syria and the Arab parties to pull out from the ongoing peace negotiations and also hope that their troops will achieve further expansionist designs in the Arab region, the paper added. It said that without the presence of a military force in Iraq to back Syria, Damascus is exposed to the Israeli onslaught with backing from Western nations. The paper warned of serious consequences and called on the co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process to step in and put an end to such Israeli practices and dangerous acts.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Wednesday welcomed a recent statement by Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid who was reported by Radio Jordan as calling on the Arab countries to ease the restrictions imposed on Iraq by the U.N. Security Council as a punishment for invading Kuwait. The writer, Bader Abdul Haq, said that the Arab League, which was totally obvious to what was happening in the Gulf and which has proved impotent with regard to the various developments in the region, now seems to be brought back to life. The majority of Arabs had even forgotten the presence of the Arab League and its various agencies simply because it was inactive throughout the past two years and has not lifted a finger in defence of the people of Iraq in view of the continued divisions among the Arab states, said the writer. He said that Mr. Abdul Meguid's call on the Arabs to provide the Iraqis with food and medicine opens a new avenue for hope that the Arab League will, after all, wake up to the facts and the realities and help alleviate the sufferings of the Iraqi children, women and old people. The writer said that the Arab masses demand that the Arab League end the embargo on Iraq altogether and help unify the Arab ranks in the face of the colonial powers' designs.

A united Non-Aligned Movement can become a salutary counterweight in the balance of powers

By G.H. Jansen

Union at the time of the Korean crisis. The non-aligned at Bali went out of their way to express their resentment of the linkage the western countries were making between aid and human rights.

"In the old bipolar world NAM was sometimes talked of as the 'third force.' It would be enough now if it emerged as a salutary reminder that the new world order is not all there, is not global, and that there is this other presence."

One of the great weaknesses of NAM has been that, effectively, it simply went to sleep in the years between its summit conferences, despite an impression of activity with scur-

rying to and fro between meetings being held here and there. It is the chairman who would have to provide continuity and a ready availability to deal with crises situations. And, since the death of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi NAM has been poorly served by her successors, Rajiv Gandhi, President Mughabi and the hopelessly distracted Yugoslavs. Two suggestions were made to fill this gap. The chairman could be backed-up either by a troika of the past, present and future chairmen, who would have to be named well ahead, or there could be an eleven member "cabinet," with four members each from Asia and Africa, two from Latin America and one from Europe.

Two other very obvious shortcomings of NAM were its over-large, indiscriminate membership and the practice of reaching decisions by consensus. NAM is not yet courageous enough to say that those members that are clearly aligned should be weeded out, but it was suggested that some criteria for membership should be applied to new members. Also, decisions could be on the basis of something called "converging consensus," which would mitigate the effect of a

complete consensus that produces the lowest common denominator.

To lower NAM's high hypocrisy level, members should be warned against voting one way in NAM gatherings and another, usually pro-western, in other fora, a particular predilection of the Africans.

Much of the credit for the useful suggestions produced by the Methodology Committee must go to Cyprus which presides over it. And yet Cyprus is ripe for expulsion from NAM because it not only permits British sovereign military bases to remain on its territory but even hosts how useful these are to the western powers, as the Cypriot president recently did while visiting Germany.

To prove that NAM is very much alive and well and kicking NAM membership continues to grow: Guatemala and Papua New Guinea were admitted as full members. Cambodia's membership was reactivated and China came in as an observer. The "guest" list grows longer, and now includes Germany, Greece, Finland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary among others. The new Central Asian republics will, assuredly, be knocking at

the door. What is NAM's attractiveness? A very good question that should be pondered by the sceptics.

Having taken away the chairmanship of NAM, until September, from Yugoslavia, which is replaced by Indonesia, NAM recognised Serbia, Montenegro as the replacement in the Yugoslav seat, to soften the blow it decided that Slovenia and Croatia would be admitted, but later on.

It could be said that by turning inward and setting its own very large house in order, NAM, confronted with the spectre of the new world order is moving away from the guiding concept of NAM being "independence of judgement" as enunciated by its founder Jawaharlal Nehru and towards the practice of Marshal Tito for whom non-alignment was "self-protection." What NAM may lose in moral and philosophical weight it will compensate for by its greater usefulness.

In the old bipolar world NAM was sometimes talked of as the "third force." It would be enough now if it emerged as a salutary reminder that the new world order is not all there, is not global, and that there is this other presence.

Israel election — forget the issues, dish the dirt

By Robert Mahoney
Reuter

JERUSALEM — Israel's political leaders, while swearing they want to fight next month's election like gentlemen, have turned the campaign into a bare-knuckle contest of character assassination, slur and innuendo.

Forget Middle East peace talks, the Palestinian uprising or record unemployment. The issues, according to party strategists, are the characters of the two main contenders, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and opposition leader Yitzhak Rabin. Newspapers are filled with mud-slinging by the ruling Likud and opposition Labour parties in what commentators say is the dirtiest campaign of Israel's 44-year-old history.

Researchers have been taking over the past of each contender looking for juicy tidbits to whet the press's appetite.

In contrast to American politics there have been no sex scandals. But allegations run from heavy drinking to killing.

Senior party members deny dragging the campaign down to the level of personal attacks while their aides furiously leak the dirt on their opponents.

The prime target so far has been the man out front — Mr. Rabin. Most opinion polls show that the 1967 Arab-Israeli war army commander and former prime minister is more popular than Mr. Shamir.

To capitalise on this, Labour has tried to portray the June 23 election as a U.S. presidential-style contest, as much between personalities as policies.

This prompted Likud to attack Mr. Rabin directly. Reports of his heavy drinking and nervous collapse on the eve of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war resurfaced. Mr.

Rabin denied the drinking charge.

He also broke silence last week on his collapse 12 days before the war began on June 5, saying he closeted himself for 24 hours because of deep emotional distress but recovered and went on to lead Israel to victory.

His admission has failed to quieten Likud, which pressed its attack over the weekend.

"This is not a personal matter," Likud campaign spokesman Yossi Ahimier said. "It is about Mr. Rabin's ability to withstand pressure."

Both Likud and Labour deny a smear campaign but unidentified sources from both camps are continually in print saying they will not raise an issue embarrassing to their opponents, then raising it.

Yediot Ahronoth, the country's most widely read newspaper, headlined Rabin's collapse, then reported how Labour had decided not to respond to the attack by reviving Mr. Shamir's alleged involvement in the killing of an acquaintance the Jewish underground in Palestine in 1943.

Mr. Ahimier denounced the story as a Labour ploy and said it was untrue. For the reader however, Labour had got its point across.

The same tactic appeared on Sunday. The Jerusalem Post published a front-page report on how Labour had dismissed ways of attacking Mr. Shamir "but decided after a veto by Rabin, not to make use of unsubstantiated rumours (Shamir) is suffering from Parkinson's disease."

"This is the real reason the Likud objected to a televised confrontation between Rabin and Shamir. They do not want Shamir's trembling hands to be seen," the Post quoted a Labour source as saying.

Likud denied the allegation and Mr. Shamir is expected to do one televised debate with Mr. Rabin who appealed for three.

Some members of both parties fear the personal sniping could backfire. Benjamin Netanyahu, a deputy minister in Mr. Shamir's office, said "mud-slinging... is unacceptable and not good for the Likud." Silomo Lahat, the popular Likud mayor of Tel Aviv, went further, calling the campaign evil and the attacks on Mr. Rabin an unprecedented scandal.



Germany sets example with drive to protect environment

By Wolf Dieter Michaeli

BONN — The world's climate is changing more rapidly than hitherto assumed. Unless prompt and drastic measures are taken to protect the earth's atmosphere, the "greenhouse effect" will intensify and in a few decades mankind will be threatened with dramatic consequences: a rise in the ocean levels, the flooding of coastal regions, the spread of deserts and starvation because of periods of drought and millions of environmental refugees. The main cause of this menacing development is carbon dioxide (CO₂) emission and the improvement of energy efficiency which proposes a combined CO₂/energy levy. With the yield from this levy a start is to be made in Europe on the change-over from fossil fuels to more environment-compatible and renewable forms of energy.

The EC must assume the role of an engine and submit concrete proposals in Rio," it has been stated in Bonn. There must be no further delays in respect of climate protection.

According to the latest scientific findings, the threat to extensive ecosystems has been aggravated. Only prompt action will bring about a change. The main perpetrator of the "greenhouse effect" are the industrial countries which burn a good 80 per cent of the fossil energy sources worldwide.

The principal emitter of CO₂, the "greenhouse gas," is the energy sector, including transport. Agriculture is also contributing to the climatic change (cows and fertilisers). According to a resolution approved by the Federal government, the level of carbon-dioxide emission is to be reduced by 25 to 30 per cent in Germany by the year 2005. At UNCED, Bonn is to advocate the laying down of obligatory reduction in CO₂ levels within the framework of a World Climate Convention.

Germany is also leading the way in the banning of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and halons which are held responsible for the reduction of the ozone layer in the stratosphere. As a first country in the world, Germany intends to "abandon full-halogenated CFCs" (used in refrigerators, air-conditioning and as a propellant) by 1995 at the latest, and sooner if possible. The EC and other industrial countries intend to follow this example.

Not only does Bonn intend to provide the Third World with financial and technical support in checking the "ozone hole," it intends to do so in the case of other environment projects, too — "in a spirit of worldwide environmental partnership with the developing countries." According to German Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl: "We shall be able to convince others of the need for environmental protection all the better if we have done our 'homework' within the national framework." — IN-Press.

Republicans see trouble for Bush from Ross Perot

By Steve Holland
Reuter

KENNEBUNKPORT, MAINE — While President George Bush plays golf this weekend he may ponder the results of his campaign so far — he is level with an inexperienced Texas billionaire who has no clear stand on the issues at stake.

Despite alarm bells sounded by some Republicans, Mr. Bush and his reelection team have yet to form a strategy to counter the threat posed by prospective independent candidate Ross Perot.

Mr. Bush is taking a break from campaign pressures by spending a few days at his home on the Maine coast.

An opinion poll published on Friday gave both Mr. Bush and Mr. Perot 35 per cent support from the voters to 25 per cent for Democratic front runner Bill Clinton, the Arkansas governor.

But other than White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater saying Mr. Perot has a "destructive personality," the Bush campaign has engaged in no concerted effort to check Mr. Perot's surge.

Campaign officials say they believe Mr. Perot is getting the same sort of anti-Washington protest vote that led conservative Republican Pat Buchanan to ring up 20 per cent votes in some states against Mr. Bush earlier in the primary season.

"I think the polls reflect that there is a general frustration out there with Washington," one official said.

Mr. Perot's perceived weaknesses — no government experience and no particular answers to the country's mounting ills — appear to be helping more than hurting him.

"It's a lot easier to be attractive at this point as an outsider with no public record to be challenged and no public platform to be scrutinised," the Bush campaign aide said.

The campaign team says it would be pointless to concentrate fire on Mr. Perot until he becomes an official candidate. His decision is expected next month.



Ross Perot

spend on the campaign — \$100 million — and what effect his candidacy would have on the electoral vote.

They say it is a mistake to try to compare Mr. Perot with previous third-party candidates because Mr. Perot's support runs across the political spectrum.

Add to that a high level of disenchantment among voters and you have what one strategist called "a strange and uniquely unpredictable cycle."

A strategist close to the Bush campaign said of Mr. Perot: "He's a real danger."

He said opinion poll figures showing Mr. Perot leading Mr. Bush in California and Texas were alarming. Both states have been key to republican presidential successes. Adding in traditionally conservative Florida, these three states carry 111 of the 270 electoral votes needed for election.

If Mr. Bush cannot take California and his adopted home state of Texas, the strategist said, he will have to engage in a "very bloody ground war" to scrape together enough electoral votes from other states to win.

As the northeastern U.S. normally leans towards the Democrats, that would make the southern U.S. and the midwest vitally important to Mr. Bush, and much of the midwest is still hurting from the recession.

"What you end up having is this Shoot-Out at the OK Corral over the electoral college," he said.

U.S. voters do not directly elect the president. Instead they cast ballots for the electoral college. Each state has as many electors as it does senators and congressmen. It takes a majority of the college, 270 votes, to capture the White House.

If the candidates do not muster those 270 votes then the House of Representatives will choose who will be president.

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Weekender

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The sculptures of Iraqi artist Ala Bashir

Only love can destroy death's kingdom

Some eighty sculptures by the well-known Iraqi surgeon and painter Ala Bashir are currently showing at the Saddam Arts Centre in Baghdad and causing a lot of discussion, verging on controversy. Here is what prominent art critic Jabra Ibrahim Jabra says about them.



Ala Bashir's sculptures stress the passions of man in their most violent form

BAGHDAD — In his new clay sculptures, Dr. Ala Bashir has worked a miracle the like of which one can scarcely find anywhere else. One could hardly have expected it even from his own highly skillful hands. After this bulk of works produced in a matter of eighteen months, Iraqi sculpture has taken a sharp turn, which will make us as of today look at every other work and ask whether it was produced before or after these amazing sculptures were made. They begin with the premonitions of mass destruction which seized the whole nation, and go on to an experience of horror, one of the worst in human history, in order to express in pottery's clay what millions of words could not express; something elementary and primal that night date back to man's experience in his earliest and most primitive times, and yet so wrought and complex that it rises with man's experience to the great heights of his tragedy and terrifying transcendence, in an age of seeming progress and civilisation. In these small sculptures are condensed the passions of man in their most violent form, in their most shattering intensities of horror and death, to arrive at their most violent form in the feelings of love prevailing over horror and death. I know of no artist who could in some seventy works,

succeeding one another like so many chapters in an epic, portray man's penetration, in an age of genocide and barbarism, to the very heart of the universe, in order to put in concrete form that sweeping mysterious sense of the oneness of all existence, whereby man's salvation will be realised. It is in fact an interpenetration of animal, bird and plant, of man with man, of body with body, of head with head, of face with actual face. Here we have that absolute identification with all that God has created, that absolute fusion into all that God has made. **ART REVIEW** Here is beautiful seduction and the equally beautiful surrender to it, with the crowd, ever latent in the experience of men, turning its croak, in order to save mankind, into a final song of love. The cry in the works is indeed a dominant theme: mouths cry, beaks cry, the whole world cries. It is a cry from the depths, and the crowd cries out together with man with many mouths and many tongues. Walls crumble, wreckage flies into the air, but in the end an all-powerful urge works its way through ruck and ruin in the direction of love, which alone shall end all crying and destroy death's kingdom. For more than thirty five

years we followed up the creations of Ala Bashir as he developed his tragic vision through line and colour in large paintings, noted for their vast spaces suggestive of immeasurable depths and distances, the depths and distances of dreams and nightmares. Suddenly, through the terror of savage air raids and missile bombardments intent on dehumanising man, the murdered as well as the murderer, we see him resort directly to ceramic mud: In his spontaneous reaction, he shapes it up, cogitates through it and makes it with his hands articulate what line and colour are unable to say. This was an entirely unexpected shift of medium which provided the artist with a strong boost in his powers of expression under conditions of extreme cruelty. The result was a kind of sculpture the like of which, despite its diminutive size, was unprecedented in power and articulation in Iraq, or indeed anywhere in the Arab World. These sculptures venture, protest, reject, shout in anger and loudly declare their final alignment with man everywhere. The artist's hands, immersed in soft mud, thus become the mind's own tool of reflection, of interpretation, of imaginative flight, real and fantastic all at once. Ala Bashir's fingers are actually, in sensitivity and professional skill, the fingers

of the surgeon that he is: They lance a tumour to eradicate it, and knit a wound to heal it, in a time timid and thick with wounds. The artist — surgeon, through plastic form, can only look for cure with great obstinacy until he discovers, repeatedly, that love is God's only gift that enables man to transcend his tragedy and regain his wholeness and well-being beyond the claws of evil, rampaging as evil may be. The kiln has of course imposed its unavoidable limitation on the size of these works, but the artist has exploited this very limitation by charging every fired sculpture with a concentration of symbols, the suggestive radiations of which explode in rapid succession in the viewer's mind, expanding there in ever — widening circles. Some of this may hark back in its roots to Sumerian art itself, where the artist handled his medium with the closest intimacy and the greatest possible articulation of pleasure and pain, all within a purely personal scale which if measured might be no more than the space between the open palms of the artist's hands. Hence springs that poetic spirit which elevates the sorrow of one man to be the sorrows of all men, and joins a single person's love with the loves and passions of the whole of mankind. In the meantime, in an unexpected irony, these clays, with their comparatively small masses and vacuums and splittings seem to turn into models that could be enormously enlarged into monuments, to address themselves to the city at large; and they would each address themselves to it as a witness and a warning and, finally, as annunciation, and for generations to come.



One of the sculptures by the well-known Iraqi artist Ala Bashir

American author celebrates the 'non-celebrated'

By Leanne Waxman
The Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Studs Terkel has made a career out of listening, but he also likes to talk. A lot. The chronicler of the "non-celebrated" admits to being a "big mouth" and "ham." He needs little prodding, his ready voice roaring with excitement, then dropping to a whisper. With a tug on his sweater in his trademark red, Terkel lets fly. "Am I for Clinton? I question his policy about unions in Arkansas... I don't care if he slept with Jennifer Flowers." More money for housing, schools and social programs? "Where's the money gonna come from? I'll tell

you where it's gonna come from. The biggest welfare bum of all — the Pentagon." The master interviewer for collections of oral history, syndicated radio talk show host, voice of gangsters on old radio shows and blacklist survivor turned 80 on May 16, but he's far from slowing down. Mr. Terkel said his new book *Race*, was his toughest yet — and he's already thinking about his next one, about "old scrappers like me." His previous books include *Hard Times*, on the depression; *Working*, on how people feel about their jobs; and the 1985 Pulitzer Prize winner, *The Good War*, on World War II. *Race*, Mr. Terkel said, was different. The others allowed

people to look back, or discuss "safer" subjects. "This is, 'what is it like now, at this point, to feel as you do about the issue we won't talk about?'" So it's much tougher. It's much more delicate and yet it's been there all the time. "How long did it take me to write this book? I'll say 30 years. Three years literally, but 30 years. How long has the issue been with us? 400 years, since the first slave ship landed." Once dubbed by Nobel laureate Gunnar Myrdal as "an American dilemma," race is now "the American obsession," Mr. Terkel said. "It's become the pervasive issue. We can't avoid it. With Reagan it was welfare queens and cadillacs, and Willie Hor-

ton elected Bush, yet nobody wants to talk about it," said Mr. Terkel, rubbing his eyes after a bone-weary day of doing just that. Mr. Terkel knows how to hold up his end of a conversation, but in *Race* he steps aside for 80 blacks, whites, Hispanics, Asians and "others." He unraveled their complexities with dignity as his tape recorder whirled. They are parents, grandparents; teachers, accountants, a computer programmer, a librarian, a cabbie; a former Ku Klux Klan leader, people who demonstrated with Martin Luther King Jr. They include occupiers of public housing and the condo dwellers of high-rises, all mostly in Mr. Terkel's hometown, Chicago.

Mr. Terkel weaves lives, moving from a grandmother he interviewed in 1965 to her daughter and son and grandson. A mention of a friend or colleague flows into their own, full-bodied testimony. There's Diane Romano, white, federal investigator, mother of six. "We have a new boss, a black man. Everybody's saying the only reason he got the job is because he's black. I feel bad because I agree with them. Not verbally, but with a smile, a laugh, body language. I come home and I think: Why am I doing this? Why did I not say: He's qualified, extremely qualified?" There's Joseph Robinson, black, a union leader on white co-workers: "I can be standing there and they will forget that I'm a black man. A black man will walk down the street and they holler, 'hey, nigger.' ... When I hear these guys calling, 'nigger,' my head roars up inside me but I can't let it defeat me."

There's a childhood recollection from Lynda Wright, a light-skinned black, welfare recipient and mother of four: "I had a friend who thought I was white and I thought she was black, but we never discussed it. Finally, we discovered she was white and I was black ... My friend and I cried, knowing we'd never be the same from that point on." And there's Gilbert Gordon, white, a lawyer: "It obsesses everybody, even those who think they don't know... They say, 'oh, she's great, but the others...'" He's guardedly optimistic about race relations, as are many in the book. And they nearly all agree on one point: the race gap has widened under the presidencies of Ronald Reagan and George Bush. Consequently, a greater acceptance of racism exists, Mr. Terkel said. "In winning the presidency, the 'gipper' reversed the field and made the '80s the decade unashamed," he writes in the book's introduction. But Mr. Terkel sees "slender reeds of hope" in the inner conflicts and self-evaluations of his subjects. All is not lost, he said, so long as ambivalence nibbles.

Prominent novelist describes her creative process

By Hillel Italie
The Associated Press
NEW YORK — Novelist Toni Morrison will never forget the time she saw a man sitting on a stoop, staring into space, his mouth full of pennies. His mouth full of pennies? Of course, her mother told her, it's an old superstition: If you lose the woman you love, you put pennies in your mouth to get her back. As a child, Morrison thought he was crazy. Now, though, the author misses that helpless man and his coin-filled heartache. She admires his silent resignation to baring his soul before his neighbors, the implicit agreement that no private pain is too unmentionable to speak in public. "It seemed to me people — not just poor people like we were during the depression in Ohio — were more theatri-

cal, and did stranger, more interesting and more eccentric things," Morrison, 61, said during an interview at her publisher's Manhattan offices. "People are terrified of behaving in an odd fashion now. They don't give in to rather interesting peccadillos and eccentricities the way they seemed to be before. Now, everybody goes to a counselor." Jazz, Morrison's sixth novel and her first since her Pulitzer Prize-winning *Beloved*, is set in Harlem in the 1920s. It tells the story of Joe Trace, a married, middle-aged salesman who takes on a teenage mistress and then shoots her dead when she tries to break off the relationship. At the funeral, Joe's wife, Violet, rushes to the coffin and tries to slash the face of her fallen rival. Joe never goes to prison because his dying victim refused to tell

her friends who did it. "She got reasons," a character in *Jazz* explains. "Even if she crazy." Crazy people got reasons," Morrison isn't asking anyone to forgive these people. She's just calling for a little understanding. Sometimes, it just makes sense to take a knife to a dead body or to forgive a man for taking your life. "Crazy can be the most important thing to keep," Morrison said. "There's a line in *Beloved* about being 'crazy in order not to lose your mind.' "The pressures can be really extraordinary. They can break you and you are vulnerable if you don't have adequate protection or are just a little bit more sensitive than the other person. Madness is a form of protection. Seta (in *Beloved*) thinks, 'other people go crazy, why can't I?'" Morrison was born Chloe Anthony Wofford in Lorain,

Ohio, a steel town west of Cleveland. She attended Howard University, where she spent much of her free time in the theatre and met and married a Jamaican architect whom she divorced in the 1960s. In 1964, she became an editor at Random House and began fleshing out a short story she had worked on in college. The *Bluest Eye*, her first novel, was published in 1970. She followed with *Sula*, *Song Of Solomon* and *Tar Baby*, finally leaving Random House in 1983 to devote more time to writing. Her characters all have their reasons. In *Sula*, a woman makes love with her best friend's husband. In *Song Of Solomon*, a man drives his lover to madness while his best friend tries to kill him. Seta, the escaped slave in *Beloved*, murders her daughter in order to keep her from being raised on a plantation. Everything is relative. What seems outrageous to the outsider makes sense to the person caught in the act. In an unfair world, you have to make up your own rules in order to get by, use your mind to attain the only power you'll ever have. "There are ways in which human beings can live in the world, a larger and more interesting and more original life," Morrison said. "There's not an awful lot of things available to use, but there is an interior life that is fascinating and true."

Morrison didn't listen to music while she wrote *Jazz* and had no melody in her head. Jazz — the music — appeals to her as a way to live and as a way to write. It means acting spontaneously, moving to the beat of your own inner voice. As an author, it means letting the words flow like notes from an alto sax. "One of the things one likes about writing fiction is the sense you're completely in control," Morrison said. "It's your world, total authority and nobody's in it. So there's no risk, except imagining it. I wanted to take the risk of opening up, letting the absence of control function."

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

I am a slow walker, but I never walk backwards
— Abraham Lincoln, U.S. president (1809-1865).

Death and labour are things of necessity and not of choice
— Simone Weil, French philosopher-poet-writer (1910-1943).

If we are not ashamed to think it, we should not be ashamed to say it
— Cicero, Roman scholar (106 B.C.- 43 B.C.).

You can do very little with faith, but you can do nothing without it
— Samuel Butler, English satirist (1835-1902).

Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers
— Lord Alfred Tennyson, English poet (1809-1892).

Beware the fury of a patient man
— John Dryden, English poet (1631-1700).

Goodness is the only investment that never fails
— Henry David Thoreau, U.S. writer (1817-1862).

At the beach

By Maha Addasi

We went to the beach with our eight-year-old niece and four-year-old nephew, and what an experience it was! The three-day, two-night stay in a hotel at the beach with the kids was enough to prove that children have an inbuilt multi-purpose mechanism enabling them to have "extra" abilities while on vacation. These powers are, of course, lost on parents who have, over the years, developed a tolerance to them and who somehow end up taking these talents for granted.

Take children's sense of timing, for one. We should be sitting at the breakfast table, all poised, with forks ready, and just as we are about to dig into our meal a squeaky little voice would shatter the silence with "Mum! Toilet!" and will continue with a piece of absolutely necessary information. "It's the big one!"

Of course the poor mother would jump up abruptly, as she has been programmed to do, and hurry the kid to the nearest toilet, leaving her meal like so many others before, to get inebriated. This goes to prove a theory that one way to go on a diet is not to have a toilet-trained child. But let us not get side-tracked here. Let us go back to proving children's super powers.

Another one those is kid's ability to whine on-stop for so long that after a while they themselves would not remember what they are whining about. At the beach many situations present themselves that could be ideal for a child to moan about.

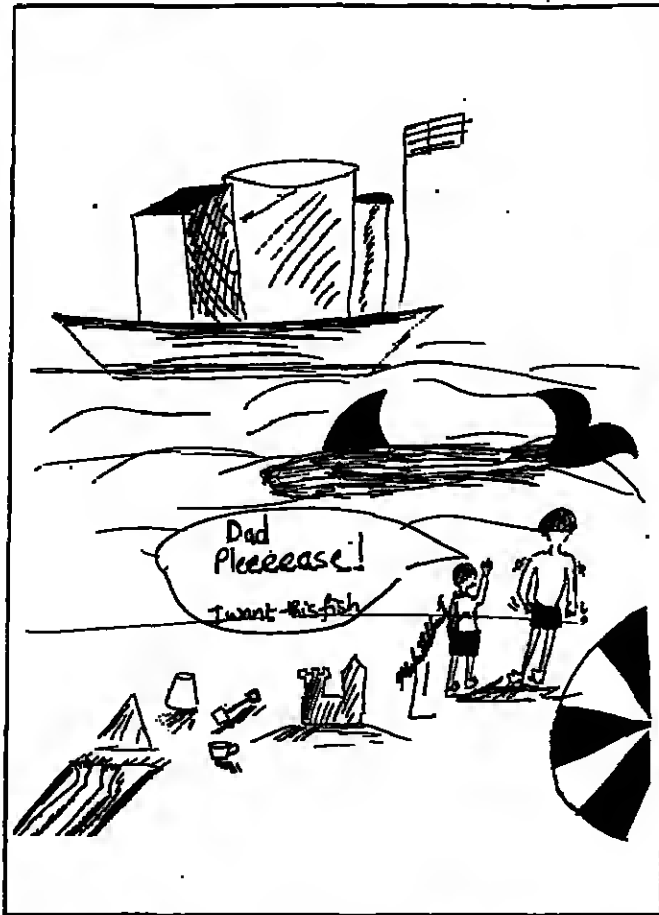
The one reason we came across was a dead fish. Our niece found a minute dead fish lying on the beach and carried it over to where we were sitting so that our nephew would have the opportunity to glimpse at it and develop an overwhelming need to want one too. So left all the buckets, spades, sand castles, and bores. Actually he trampled all over them and came for a closer look to assure himself that yes indeed he would like to have a fish exactly the same size as the one his sister is carrying. In fact he would also like to know what it feels like to hold it so he asked to "borrow" it before he switched on the "I want one too" mode which had the ability to send all us adults off to hunt down another dead fish.

So what are the chances? They had better be good or we are doomed.

That time we were lucky enough to find another dead fish. Only it was somewhat larger than the first one and that of course brought up the issue of who gets to keep which fish. This was a debate that consumed all the time until dinner.

After dinner the crucial moment came. That of the kid's bed-time. Although most of us adults were by that time ready to give out whoops of joy that bed-time for the kids is here, we had to suppress that feeling so that we could be more convincing.

You would think that with the kids sleeping at 8 p.m. every night 365 nights a year, that it would be natural for them to be tired at 8 p.m. on this day too. Not quite.



The second the parents told them to get ready to go to bed, the kids switched on an extra generator of energy enabling them to become more alert, and ready to resist such a notion.

Our niece, acting like a young lady until that moment, suddenly decided that being lady-like would not buy her extra time awake and she was suddenly engulfed in tears. By starting to cry she jump started our nephew who too began to complain.

This is where parental power kicked in. They had realized that the kids have had their way all day long and it was about time everyone had some peace.

So the parents ignored all the pleads for more time, and shipped the children off to bed, but then discovered that they too are tired from the day's exhausting experience with children.

What we as first-timers vacationing with kids discovered in short, was that if you want to go on vacation with children you should be prepared for the whining and dining episodes. But you should also make sure you remember these incidents. They may be some of your best memories with these kids.

Back to school

By E. Yaghi

Somewhere, a lamb bleated while tiny drops of rain splashed inside Carol's kitchen window and the accompanying wind howled between the high buildings. The sky was overcast with a purple hue and the day itself suddenly appeared grey and solemn, decorated only by green grape vines, white and pink carnations and peppered with yellow jasmine that reeked out its perfume amidst the washed smell of everything that filled the spring air.

"How fortunate we are to have rain in May!" exclaimed Carol as she prepared breakfast for her sons. "If only I didn't have exams."

The kitchen door opened and her younger boy entered and asked: "Should I wear long or short sleeves?"

"Whatever happened to those long forgotten words of 'good morning?' All you worry about is your appearance!" Unhearing and uncaring, the younger son excited to the nearest mirror where he could study himself. The older son then barged into the kitchen tugging his school bag. "Good morning, Mom. Can you sew on this strap for me? It came off."

"Put it on the chair. Just give me a minute until I finish making your breakfast. I think your school bag should be iron instead of cloth. How do you go through your bags so fast? Do you throw them under passing trucks or trains or stomp up and down on them? And when am I supposed to study for my exam?" Carol asked frustrated.

There was a steady plump in her heart and already it felt like it had begun to crawl up her throat. She looked out her kitchen window and saw a patch of blue peek out among the linings of dark clouds. The soft rays of the veiled sun commenced to brighten up the dark sky. A sense of imminent dread overcame her. She had already undergone her first exams in her courses and a peculiar trail had begun to surface. She noticed that during these exasperating times, she simply turned into an idiot, not to mention all the distraction she had to divert her attention away from her studies anyway. Her husband then approached and sat down at the table. So, the boys joined him and the family quietly ate their morning meal or rather, gulped it down as far as the youths were concerned. Carol had a late class that day so she was counting on some studying time before her exam. After breakfast, she cleared the table and washed the dishes while each son dashed off to school with a hurried, "Bye Dad, Mom!"

Later as she began preparing lunch with her lecture notes propped in front of her, her husband triumphantly hauled in a pile of Mulukheya. "How lucky I am, first grape leaves and now Mulukheya! Last night I stayed awake until 12:30 rolling grape leaves and studying at the same time and now before I leave, I get to pick all these lovely little leaves that make hours of effort. It's so much fun to study and cook at the same time!"

"Well, what shall I do, that's what's in the market," her husband grumbled in a wounded voice.

She tried to fight back those tears and look on the bright side; she could always get lesser grades and look stupid! College wasn't that easy after all and in fact, it was a real struggle as far as Carol was concerned. Had some of her enthusiasm faded since she entered the university? Certainly not, but those inflated dreams of being an "A" student were quickly evaporating. However, she loved being a student and she appreciated her lectures and the professors who gave them. She felt she had learned a lot and that she was somewhat wiser than she had been four months ago although it didn't always look like it on her exams. She began picking the leaves while she beat her head over her notes. Could all this information ever go into her rusty brain, a brain that hadn't taken a test in many years? Well, she was trying her best. As she plucked away, there was a knock on the door. Her husband answered it and to Carol's delight, his small neices brought her more Mulukheya to pick. "That's just great! Now I'll be here forever emerged in a huge pile of leaves with nothing to do but sort them out. I shouldn't even go and take my exam, but just stay here and work," Carol complained as the tears

readied themselves to overflow.

Many, many leaves later and after Carol tried to read over and over again her material for the exam as she picked, she finally completed her culinary tasks. Had she studied enough? There wasn't much time left and she had to get ready for her classes. After she prepared herself, she grabbed her books, her bag and said good-bye to her husband. She ran down the stairs, hailed a taxi and plopped herself down on the seat. She took out her notes and tried to go over them in the car. "I must be out of my mind," she said to herself as she looked out the window at the green stretches of open spaces that whizzed by before her. "Here I am studying again after all these years. Why, I've even forgotten what exams were like and just how much time is needed to study for one."

The taxi turned in at the grand entrance of the university. Carol paid the driver the money with a "thanks" and fought her way out of the car and headed for her class. Outside the lecture hall, students were gathered in groups comparing notes and advice about the test. "Did you study?" some asked Carol. "Kind of" was her reply as she scrutinized the pages of her notebook once more. Her heart beat louder and louder. Her eyes grew vacant as if she were hypnotised and she walked zombie-like into the testing hall, saturated with panic. Every face became a blur in front of her. Her professor looked rather familiar but that was all. She took a place at the back end of the hall and tried to push her soul back down into her throat. The exams were delivered out to all the students and with a shock, Carol started at the paper in front of her. There must be some mistake. This couldn't be it. She could remember Mulukheya leaves and grape leaves, but not much about this subject. "Calm yourself," she warned. "Don't be afraid. Take it easy and everything will come back to you."

But the familiar grew strange and Carol scratched her head in confusion as if she were trying to massage and revive her dead brain. When she had answered all the questions, she reviewed her answers several times and failed to notice the glaring mistakes that nearly screamed at her. Finally, hopeless, she gave her test papers to the professor in charge and wished out of the lecture hall. She met with some of the students who had gotten out before her and had clustered close to the examination room. "How did you do?" they asked each other.

As she compared notes, Carol realised that she had made at least one stupid mistake if not more. Several days later, she got her test back. It was worse than she had expected. She had tried so hard and studied so much, but she knew that she had tried to study too much material while the smarter and experienced students had only studied their lecture notes, not the reading material that they had been assigned. Later that evening at home, "I should quit!" she announced to her sons. "I try to hard and then I mess everything up. Things I know I forget completely during the exam. It's like I have a split personality or I am Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. What shall I do?"

"Mom, take it easy!" the older son advised, looking important. "What's the big deal anyway? It's not as if your whole future is at stake like those poor younger students who take the exams!"

"Thanks a lot. So, it's not important, then? But to me it is very important even if I botch things up I still care very much and after all, a grade is an achieved status that indicates how much effort a person puts into a subject he or she is taking! Besides, every time I come to study, you or your brother finds something for me to do such as tutoring me or else I'm swamped with cooking. How am I supposed to do good anyway? I am seriously wondering if I will make it to graduation after all, but I am going to keep trying, for education is a challenge and the most nourishing and exciting thing and certainly a glorious goal to work for. Remember, from the cradle to the grave, education is a pursuit that should continue for the person's entire life."

Carol faced many hardships entering the university. She is now faced with a multitude of tribulations. Will she ever graduate? If she does, will her sanity remain intact?

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, May 28

1812 — Russia, by treaty of Bucharest with Turkey, obtains Bessarabia and withdraws demand for Moldavia and Wallachia, and peace enables tsar to act against Napoleon Bonaparte.

1864 — Austria-Hungary's Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian lands in Veracruz, Mexico, to become emperor.

1918 — Armenia declares its independence.

1940 — Belgium capitulates to Germany in World War II; British and French troops begin evacuation from Dunkerque, France.

1961 — Paris-Bucharest Orient Express train makes final trip after 78 years.

1971 — Soviet Union launches spacecraft towards planet Mars.

1976 — United States and Soviet Union sign treaty limiting size of underground nuclear explosions set off for peaceful purposes.

1979 — Egypt's President Anwar Sadat announces opening of air corridors between Egypt and Israel.

1984 — Iran's President Ali Khamenei warns Arab states in Gulf area to stay out of Iraq's conflict with Iran or "bear the consequences."

1986 — The world's two most experienced Soviet spacemen take a nearly four-hour walk from their Saljut-7 orbiting station.

1988 — Yugoslav government introduces new austerity programme that includes devaluation of dinar and massive price increases.

1989 — Muslim rebels renew offensive against Afghan city of Jalalabad.

1990 — Lech Walesa persuaded rail workers to suspend a strike that had crippled train service in northern Poland.

1991 — Oil tanker explodes, killing one crewman and spilling undetermined amount of oil into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Angola.

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Middle Ages

1660 — George Rakoczy, prince of Transylvania, dies in battle with Turks.

1692 — British fleet defeats French Navy at La Hogue, ending attempted invasion of England.

1765 — Peter II, grandson of Peter I and son of Alexis, becomes tsar of Russia.

1807 — Turkey's Sultan Selim III is deposed by Mustafa IV.

1923 — Palestine constitution is suspended by the British because Arabs refuse to cooperate.

1943 — Americans defeat Japanese in Battle of Attu in Aleutian Islands in World War II.

1947 — Constituent assembly in India outlaws "untouchability."

1953 — Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tensing Norgay of Nepal become first climbers to reach top of Mount Everest, world's highest mountain.

1954 — Thailand complains in the United Nations that Communists in Indochina threaten her security.

1966 — Buddhist Nun burns herself to death outside pagoda in South Vietnamese city of Hue in protest against country's military government.

1972 — U.S. President Richard Nixon and Soviet Communist Party Secretary Leonid Brezhnev sign declaration pledging era of peaceful coexistence between United States and Soviet Union.

1978 — China's Foreign Minister Huang Hua charges at United Nations that Soviet Union is the most dangerous source of possible new world war.

1984 — Sikh terrorists kill seven people in new wave of hit-and-run attacks in India's troubled Punjab state.

1985 — Thirty-eight people are killed and 375 others injured at a Brussels stadium in riots before a European Cup soccer match.

1989 — Japanese court rules that doctors are not required to tell patients they may have cancer.

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lected president of Russian Republic, largest of Soviet Union's 15 republics.

1991 — President George Bush proposes a ban on nuclear-weapons programmes in the Middle East and an eventual ban on all missiles in the region.

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says Chinese troops told to prepare for lengthy struggle in government crackdown on student protests.

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JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, May 28

3:30 The Simpsons

The school principal, Simoo, disappears and the Simpsons start looking for him. Everybody thinks that Simon is kidnapped by a gang but he suddenly reappears.

9:10 N.B.A. Basketball

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

The Maid

A love story in Paris between a bank manager, who poses as a maid, and of his female colleague.

Friday, May 29

8:30 Coach

Loomstruck

Coach uses his wits to win back a friend's trust.

9:10 E.N.G.

A Tangled Web

10:00 News In English

10:20 Inspector Morse

The Settling Of The Sun

The murder of a Japanese student leads to another

three murders and inspector Morse untangles the complicated mystery.

Saturday, May 30

8:30 Super Bloopers

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Environment

How to save the natural resources and the earth from pollution.

10:00 News In English

10:20 French Feature Film

Le Squalo Collection Meurtre

A French mayor's son hits a man with his car while driving drunk. A man who sees the accident takes place decides not to testify for fear of the mayor.

Sunday, May 31

8:30 Wings

Sports And Leisure

Joe, his sister, Helen, and Fanny decide to go fishing.

Contemporary American dance in Paris

By Philippe Verrière

The greatest American choreographers were recently in Paris or will come to Paris in 1992. The revolution in choreography, which came from the United States in the 1970s, has influenced contemporary French dance and led to the development of the school known as "new dance"

PARIS — Between September and December 1991, all the big names in contemporary American dance topped the bills in Paris. These included Merce Cunningham (his spiritual father), Jerome Robbins (the great figure) and the Martha Graham Dance Company (for ever deprived of its legendary head).

And if this intimidating list of founding fathers was not enough, their most brilliant descendants were here with Lucinda Childs, Trisha Brown, Dana Reitz and

Karole Armitage not forgetting Carolyn Carlson who is practically part and parcel of the French choreographic scene.

So, over a period of three months, Paris dance-lovers were able to admire all the big names which have made history in modern dance and come from the United States. It is true that Alvin Nikolais and Murray Louis were missing but they will be coming through Paris in May 1992. Most astonishingly, this

celebration is largely due to chance. Jerome Robbins, for instance, is even present twice: at the Paris Opera, the great choreographer takes up some of his established works with the ballet, to put them into the troupe's repertoire, and, at the same time, one of the capital's biggest theatres is putting on West Side Story, whose choreography was done by the same Robbins, and without the two institutions' having coordinated their efforts.

The Martha Graham Company was to have come in January 1991, but problems linked to the war in the Gulf delayed travel arrangements. So the company came to Paris last autumn, but without Martha Graham who had died in the meantime. This great coming together of American dance in Paris is partly due to chance.

But only partly, as the Paris Autumn Festival, which is one of the most important events in the artistic season, had put a lot of emphasis on

American dance. As a journalist wrote: "Merce Cunningham opens this festival. He will be followed by the stars of American dance and has set up a real moral contract with the festival."

A sumptuous list of famous names

The explanation lies partly in this. Twenty years ago, the French intelligentsia discovered the revolutionaries of American choreography. One of the visitors was Merce Cunningham and he invented contemporary dance. One of the audience as Michel Guy, who was to become minister of culture and one of the prominent figures in the French world of entertainment.

Today, when the autumn festival pays homage to Michael Guy, Merce Cunningham opens the festivities. Yet, even more than being a matter of faithfulness, it is a question of logic. It is also the story of a deep relationship

linking the American artists with the French audience. For more than thirty years, the two sides have been meeting and revering one another.

A choreography critic once said with a hint of irritation: "If Merce was asked to perform in a field miles away from anywhere, he would still play to a full house." The importance of performing in Paris for these American artists is revealed by the impressive list of names. There are also some younger American performers who contributed to the development of what has become "young French dance." These include Susan Burge, Andy de Groat and Elsa Wollaston.

The key to this sumptuous list of famous names in dance can no doubt be explained by the real relationship between them and the young French people who, in the 80s, also sought new directions in the art of choreography. So a public exists. It is



A scene from Carolyn Carlson's dance class in Paris

certainly not the football or racing crowds, but spectators who are faithful and really keen. The great masters of modern dance are well aware of this and integrate a stopov-

er in France, when on tour. The public does not disappoint them.

A year ago, the city of Lyons devoted its biennial festival to "A Century of

Dance in the United States" and, this year, it is Paris that receives the most prestigious American choreographers, one after another — L'Actualité En France.

Play about dictator staged in palace where he committed suicide

By Bruce Handler
The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — Audiences are flocking to an unusual play about the final hours of charismatic former dictator Getulio Vargas, who took his own life nearly four decades ago.

The drama unfolds in the actual chamber where Mr. Vargas held his last cabinet meeting and learned that the armed forces were about to drive him from office. Then his shifts to the very bedroom where Mr. Vargas shot himself on Aug. 24, 1954.

"O Tiro Que Mudou a História," Portuguese for "The Shot That Changed History," is being performed in Rio's beautifully restored Catete Palace, where Mr. Vargas ruled as dictator from

1930-1945 and as a democratically elected president from 1950 until his death.

Mr. Vargas, often likened to the mercurial Juan Peron in neighboring Argentina, claimed to be the champion of the working man and the defender of Brazil against economic and cultural influences from the United States and other industrialized nations. His funeral produced the largest popular outpouring in Brazilian history.

Catete Palace fell into disuse after Brazil moved its capital from Rio to Brasília in 1960. Now it is a federal museum.

The audience follows each scene on foot, walking from room to room and climbing the palace's stairs to accompany the cast of stage and TV soap-opera stars who portray Mr. Vargas and the other

personalities.

Playwright-director Aderbal Freire Filho and Carlos Eduardo Novais, an essayist and one-time comedian, wrote the two-hour drama as a three-performance venture to mark the 37th anniversary of Mr. Vargas' death last year.

The play caught on and has been running ever since. Two-thirds of Brazil's 150 million citizens weren't even born when Mr. Vargas committed suicide, but his name is preserved on thousands of streets and plazas throughout Latin America's biggest country.

"You can't believe how surprised we were," Mr. Novais, who now is Rio's municipal secretary of culture, said in an interview. "I suppose this is some sort of history lesson for the younger

generation."

"Shot" combines contemporary events with theatrical techniques dating from the ancient Greek stage of 2,500 years ago.

Drum-beating fates stand outside the palace and tell the audience of Mr. Vargas' impending doom. The president has been accused of seeking absolute power and plotting a failed attempt to assassinate his chief political rival.

The doors open, and the audience — limited to 60 per show because of space restrictions — is ushered into the gilt-chandeliered, parquet-floored rococo hall where Mr. Vargas, at 3 a.m. on what was to be the final day of his life, presides over a tense cabinet meeting.

Military chiefs tell the president he must resign or at

least take a leave of absence.

Mr. Vargas, played by popular TV actor Claudio Marzo, briefly considers the leave-of-absence option. But then he says, "the only way I'll leave here is dead."

Purple-clad muses deployed among the spectators fill in historical background and also lead the audience from one chamber to another.

The theatergoers, some dressed casually in blue jeans, pay a government-subsidized price of just 15,000 cruzeiros, or \$6, a ticket. They react to the drama in various ways.

Those old enough to have lived under Mr. Vargas' rule nod their heads or else grimace as Mr. Vargas discourses impassionedly to defend himself from his attackers.

One woman of about 20 was taken back when the actor playing Mr. Vargas' often-drunk, sexually promiscuous brother Benjamin interrupted a soliloquy to kiss her hand.

Emotions build as the audience is led to the palace's third floor, peering down from balustrades overlooking the red-carpeted main entranceway. Powerful generals enter and announce the final verdict: Mr. Vargas must go.

Then the muses lead the spectators into Mr. Vargas' bedroom, where they sit down for the first and only time. A soprano sings an operatic air as a string trio plays classical music interspersed with strains from Brazil's national anthem.

A beautiful young girl in a white nightgown is on the

president's bed.

An off-stage narrator explains that the mystical figure is the mirror of Mr. Vargas' soul, his final reckoning with his destiny.

Actor Marzo peers at a painting on the wall showing the real Mr. Vargas with President Franklin Roosevelt in Brazil just before the end of World War II. The girl in the nightgown produces a revolver. The president, wearing striped pajamas with the monogram "GV" — as was the case on the fatal day — pulls the trigger.

There is no gunshot noise. No fake blood. Marzo simply falls motionless on the bed. "We didn't want to be morbid," writer Novais explained.

Then a cabinet ally reads Mr. Vargas' now-famous "testament-letter" in which

the late president blamed his demise on foreign interests linked to self-serving Brazilian groups.

The letter's most-quoted phrase is, "I gave you my life. Now I offer you my death."

The play's co-author and director, Freire Filho, said Mr. Vargas may have been "trying to show that one who wishes to sacrifice himself for his people must be capable of a tragic act, so as not to be a false prophet."

A civilian government succeeded Mr. Vargas, but Brazil succumbed to military dictatorship from 1964 to 1985. Its current government is democratic.

"The theatre," Freire Filho said, "simply reveals the tragic dimension of politics. Off stage, Brazil is still the same old play."

Satyajit Ray — tribute to an Indian maestro

By Partha S. Banerjee

CALCUTTA — When the world saw him on television on the night of the Oscar awards in March, clutching his gold statuette as he lay in his hospital bed, Calcuttans could scarcely hide their joy and pride. For movie-maker Satyajit Ray, honoured by the American Academy of Motion Pictures with an Oscar for a lifetime achievement, was a man deeply revered in this eastern Indian city.

Less than a month later, that joy and pride turned to grief as Calcutta and India mourned the loss of their greatest cultural icon. Satyajit Ray died of heart failure on April 23 after several months of illness; he was 70. His body lay in state for a day in the city's main cultural complex and the local government declared a holiday. Messages of condolence arrived from all over the world.

But what made Ray so special? What was it that placed this film-maker on a pedestal so much higher than that normally reserved from movie-makers? For one, Ray's extraordinary accomplishments and scholarship, and that towering personality that charged his giant 6-foot-4 inch frame. Perhaps almost as importantly, Ray was the only major internationally-known artist from Calcutta in recent decades, a city that has always prided itself on its culture but which nowadays is synonymous with urban blight and poverty.

Ray was not only the greatest film-maker India has ever produced. Some critics have rated his body of work — comprising 30 feature films and several documentaries — as among the best in the world, on a par with Ingmar Bergman, Akira Kurosawa and Michelangelo

Antonioni. Noted the Times of London, in 1987: "Each of his works is a version of perfection." The Oscar citation spoke of the "rare mastery of the art of motion pictures... which has had an indelible influence on film-makers and audiences throughout the world." Oxford University conferred on him an honorary D. Litt., and in 1989, during an official visit to India, French President Francois Mitterrand flew to Calcutta to personally present Ray with the Legion of Honour.

One of the first people to recognise Ray's talent was the famed American director John Huston. After viewing the rushes of Ray's first movie, "Pathar Panchali" (The Song of the Road) in 1953, Huston described how impressed he was to another American visitor, Monroe Wheeler of New York's Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). Mr. Wheeler, then in India to prepare for an exhibition on that country's arts, was similarly moved and a year later, he invited Ray to premiere his movie at MoMA for the opening of the India exhibition. The young director worked night and day to finish the movie for the deadline. When he finally made it to the Pan Am freight counter at Calcutta Airport with the film package, he was so exhausted he fell asleep while awaiting his turn.

"Those were the days of feverish excitement," Ray was to recall in an interview many years later. After its dream debut in New York, "Pathar Panchali" went on to win a special award at the Cannes Film Festival, sparking worldwide interest in the then unknown Indian director. Back home, the story of the movie's making became the stuff of legend — how a determined young man put everything at stake to realise

his dream. Said movie critic Anil Grover: "It is the Indian film industry's greatest story ever, more compelling than the hundreds of scripts turned out by writers in Bombay, Madras and Calcutta."

Ray first dreamed of film-making "Pathar Panchali" while working for an advertising agency, the British-owned D.J. Keymer. As well as creating adverts he also designed book jackets, and one of the books that caught his attention was the popular novel "Pathar Panchali," then going into a new edition. Written by Bibhutibhusan Banerjee, the novel and its sequel encompassed three generations of a wretchedly poor Brahmin family, told through the story of Apu, who grows up in a Bengal village and later in the holy city of Benares.

Interest in cinema

From an early age, Satyajit had shown a consuming interest in the cinema. He hardly ever missed a movie that came to town, especially if it was directed by John Ford, William Wyler or Ernest Lubitsch. He read all he could on the subject, and wrote film scripts for novels that he knew were being adapted for movies. Later, he would compare the screenplay with his own efforts.

Young Satyajit's passion was not shared by anyone else in the family. But the Ray clan was an extraordinarily gifted one, and Ray undoubtedly drew much from his family's rich genetic pool. His grandfather Upendra-kishore Ray, was a writer, violinist, artist, editor of a children's magazine that he founded and a pioneer of half-tone block printing in India. Satyajit's father, Sukumar Ray, who died young, composed some of the best verses in Bengali and was a great illustrator and photo-

grapher. Other figures in the extended Ray family included a famous cricketer and a scholar and academician.

It was a milieu tailor-made to draw out Ray's own talent and versatility. From an early age he took to writing, music, art and photography. Later, graduating in economics from Calcutta's exclusive Presidency College, he enrolled for a course in graphic arts at a unique, informal university run by Rabindranath Tagore at Santiniketan, 130 miles northwest of Calcutta. But he never completed the course. Instead, at the age of 22, Ray joined D.J. Keymer. In 1950, the advertising agency sent him to London for training. In the six months he spent there he saw 95 movies from all over the world, including many he could never have hoped to have seen in his home city.

Particularly fascinated by the movies of Vittorio De Sica and Luchino Visconti, Ray returned to India determined to become a movie-maker, with the Italian neo-realist cinema as his model. It was on the ship that took him back home that Ray wrote the script for "Pathar Panchali." Soon after returning, Ray bought the screen rights from the author's heirs and started scouting for locations. Like the Italian neo-realist directors, Ray had decided to shoot mostly outdoors. He had also decided to avoid well-known actors, and it was only after a long search that he found the right faces for the leading roles — the boy Apu, his sister Durga, their parents and a doddering old aunt.

Finding financiers and distributors was to prove even more difficult. Most Calcutta distributors showed initial interest, mainly because Ray held the screen rights to the popular novel. But the abs-

ence of any song and dance sequences — a must in popular Indian movies even today — and Ray's aversion to a start-up quickly dampened any enthusiasm. Most producers were also skeptical of the young movie-maker's insistence on location shooting.

Ray refused to give up, and by drawing on his savings, arranging loans, selling his art books and records and even pawning his wife's jewelry, he was able to begin shooting. He chose a village south of Calcutta, and he and his troop often used public transportation to reach the location. He kept his job at the advertising agency and only worked on the movie at weekends.

The money soon ran out, and finding another backer looked impossible. It was at that point that John Huston stepped in, and the promise of a premiere in New York persuaded the West Bengal state government to put up the funding. The great Indian composer Ravi Shankar scored the music, and at the New York debut the movie sparked considerable interest. In Calcutta, the movie was released at three cinemas in 1956. R.P. Gupta, one of Ray's close friends who used to gather regularly at one of Calcutta's best-known coffee houses, well recalls the day the movie opened. "That afternoon my mind was a little preoccupied... tempered by a fine feeling of nervousness. His film was about to make its debut before the unpredictable public... We all wished him good luck and saw his towering figure walk out of the coffee house and, as it turned out later, walk into cinematic immortality."

Recognition at Cannes came as a surprise when the 1956 jurors voted the movie as Best Human Document.

The story of Apu, his sister Durga, and the family's move to the holy city of Benares was taken up again in the sequel, "Aparajito" (The Unvanquished, 1956). Ray's next movie, "The Ganges at the Night" (1957), recreated the ambience of "Pathar Panchali" but with perhaps greater perfection. The jurors at the Venice Film Festival gave it their highest award, the Golden Lion. Ray returned to the story of Apu a third time in 1959 with "Apu Sansar" (The World of Apu). By then, he had also made two other movies, one of which, "Jalsaghar" (The Music Room), examined the conflict between a proud landed aristocrat fallen on hard times and an upstart trader who had made it rich in the village.

More movies followed — "Devi" (The Goddess, 1960), "Charulata" (The Lonely Wife, 1964), which was adapted from a story by Rabindranath Tagore and "Mahanagar" (The Big City, 1963), which won the highest prize at the Berlin Film Festival. This latter was the first of a trio of movies in which Ray explored Calcutta, the city's army of educated unemployed, its poverty, its leftist thinking, its corruption, decadence and intellectual stimulation.

No politics in movies

Satyajit Ray always avoided talking about his political views in interviews and kept politics out of his movies, prompting some critics to complain that he was failing to face up to the socio-political realities of contemporary India. But his "Big City" triptych and two more recent movies — the children's fable "Hirak Rajar Deshe" (The Kingdom of Diamonds, 1980) and "Shakha Prashakha" (The Branches Of The Tree, 1990)



In more ways than one, Satyajit Ray (right) towers above the Indian cinema, ranking high among the masters of the 7th art

all gave ample signs of a lively interest in the plight of his country. "Hirak Rajar Deshe" was a fantasy movie set in a diamond kingdom. It skillfully lampooned government propaganda and subtly derided the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi for her suspension of fundamental rights in the years 1975 to 1978.

Ray always believed in what he called the "social identity" of a character — that a person behaves in a particular way not just because of his nature, but also because of his social context. As for passion, "he uses it with intensity, but only where and when it is necessary," commented lead actor Utpal Dutt, who has acted in many of Ray's movies. Indeed, one of the hallmarks of Ray's work was understatement and restraint, and that poetic visual imagery often invested with symbolic connotations. His camera sometimes lingered on a face for a minute or more before mov-

ing on. Ray was what cineastes call an "auteur," a director who conceptualises and controls every aspect of movie production. He wrote his own screenplays, which were usually highly detailed and illustrated with sketches, did the casting, rehearsed with the actors, worked out camera angles, supervised the editing and, from his fifth movie onwards, even scored the music.

That was partly because each movie became a part of him, and Ray wanted to be involved with it at every level. But it was also partly due to economic reasons. In spite of the international fame he enjoyed, Ray always refused to go to Hollywood and insisted on having total control of his work. That left him without the big backers, and he made films on extraordinarily small budgets. Even in his later movies, Ray rarely had more than \$100,000 to work with. It did not dampen his genius — World News Link.

Odd bone growth freezes joints; doctors on road to treatment

By Lynn Berry
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Carole Orzel is trapped by a body that grows normal bone in abnormal places, encasing her in a skeletal shell.

Bone started to grow in the muscles of her neck when she was 2. At 32, she is almost immobile.

Her rare disorder is called Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva, known as FOP. It affects only 2,500 people worldwide — about 100 of them in the United States.

The tragedy of the disease is magnified for many patients who are misdiagnosed and given treatment that did more harm than good. A 10-year-old Atlanta girl's right arm and shoulder amputated before doctors realised

she didn't have cancer.

However, genetic clues uncovered during the last three years have yielded hope, and two Philadelphia doctors are studying possible treatments.

It was to the offices of doctors Frederick Kaplan and Michael Zasloff that Lisa and Pat Gillooly of Albuquerque, New Mexico, recently brought their 3-year-old daughter, Sara.

Pointy lumps of bone poke out the skin along Sara's spine. The lumps don't show under a sweatshirt, and she looks healthy as she plays catch with her father while the adults talk. But she can't bend over to tie her shoes.

"If we don't do anything, her hips will be affected by the time she's 10," said Dr. Zasloff, chief of the Division of Molecular Biology and

Human Genetics at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Surgery is out of the question. Any attempt to remove the bone stimulates more bone to grow, said Dr. Kaplan, chief of the Division of Metabolic Bone Disease at the hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

The doctors say their research has broad implications for medical science.

"FOP holds the promise of unraveling clues to a whole spectrum of bone disorders, ranging from malformation of the limbs in newborns, to later degenerative diseases like arthritis and osteoporosis," Dr. Kaplan said.

"We know there's a genetic switch, so the question becomes, what is the switch that fails to turn off ... that allows a whole set of bone to

form?"

"If we can use the clues from FOP to find that switch, we will have found a very potent tool that can be used to turn on bone formation in other conditions," he said.

The first indication of FOP is malformed big toes, the last bones to develop in a fetus. The abnormal bone growth usually begins in childhood and is heralded by painful swellings in muscles and connective tissues along the spine and limbs. These swellings, which often resemble tumors, mature into normal bone. The bone grows in ribbons, crowding out muscles and bridging joints.

People with FOP can have a normal life span, but typically do not, Dr. Kaplan said. They are most threatened by pneumonia or other respiratory problems, due to res-

tricted movement of the chest cavity, and starvation from a fused jaw.

Ms. Orzel has a more advanced case, but she insists on doing things for herself even though she can't raise her hands much off her thighs. She manipulates arm-length sticks with various clamps on the ends to lift a fork to her mouth, put on eye makeup and paint landscapes.

"If you think I'm going to sit in bed and twiddle my thumbs for the rest of my life you're crazy," she said. "I have a lot to do."

Ever since her mother died about 10 years ago, Ms. Orzel has lived in a nursing home. Every morning she buzzes down the hall in her wheelchair, delivering mail to earn a little money.

Until recently, most adults with FOP had never met

another person with the disorder.

Jeannie Peeper, 33, of Casselberry, Florida, decided to do something about that. She asked Dr. Zasloff for a list of people with FOP so she could write to them.

What developed was a quarterly newsletter and the International FOP Association, (IFOPA) incorporated in 1988, with Ms. Peeper as president.

The association passes around information, identifies new patients, raises money for research and links the patients with the medical community.

It was through Ms. Peeper that Sara's parents learned of the research project in Philadelphia.

"It was the first indication we had that anyone lived past their 20s," Mr. Gillooly said.

"You look at (Sara) now and know that in 10 years she could be in a wheelchair, but there's a lot worse things to have," said his wife.

Nancy and Andy Sando of Pekoskey, Michigan, both have FOP and use wheelchairs, but that didn't stop them from getting married or working. They met in 1988 when she was writing letters to help Ms. Peeper set up the international association.

"I think you strive harder when you have a lot of obstacles to overcome," said Mrs. Sando, 32. "You want to accomplish something in your life."

Jessica Scully, 30, works in the University of Cincinnati Finance Department and has a 2½-year-old daughter, who does not have FOP. Ms. Scully, who has been using a wheelchair since she was a

teenager, is glad she has a daughter.

"I couldn't go out and play tag ... and do all the rough stuff a boy would want to do," she said. "But there are things I can teach a girl."

Dr. Kaplan says Ms. Peeper's work helps doctors as much as patients.

Dr. Kaplan, Dr. Zasloff and the IFOPA held the first international FOP symposium last September in Philadelphia, bringing together for the first time patients, doctors and scientists in various fields.

"What's inspiring to us is that we're a community, that this is not just an isolated medical problem that we happen to be interested in," Dr. Kaplan said. "It consists of patients, family members, doctors, scientists."

600 a day contract AIDS virus in one Bombay area

By Raju Gopalakrishnan
Reuters

BOMBAY — A string of condoms hung round his neck, one man trails through Bombay's sleazy red light district about 10 times each week urging prostitutes and their clients to take up safe sex.

Using a hand-held loudspeaker, Dr. Ishwar Satyanarain Gilada, Bombay's foremost authority on AIDS, preaches the importance of condoms to shabby men standing outside brothels.

Thousands of people throng Kamatipura district, many to visit its lines of dirt-infested brothels where sex can come as cheap as five rupees (less than 20 cents).

About 100,000 prostitutes work out of Kamatipura and adjoining areas. It is India's largest red light district. They entertain about four times that number of clients each night.

Dr. Gilada says that on an

average night 600 of those prostitutes and their clients will contract the deadly HIV virus. Within 10 years, most will die of AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

On holidays and weekends, add 20 per cent to each figure, he said.

"The situation is frightening," he said. "We are doing little to control it."

"AIDS was spread by blood, semen and ignorance," he said. "Now, it is also being spread by negligence."

He estimates one million Indians are HIV-positive and the number will double each year if nothing is done to control the situation.

The World Health Organisation puts the figure at between 300,000 and 400,000 and says HIV infection "has reached epidemic proportions in India."

The government says it has tested 1.2 million people in high-risk groups, including

prostitutes, homosexuals, blood donors and drug users, and found 6,319 HIV-positive cases. About half that number contracted the virus heterosexually, it says.

Dr. Gilada says he believes a third of Bombay's 100,000 prostitutes are HIV-positive. He bases his figures on sample testing of about 2,000 prostitutes in Kamatipura and says the estimates are conservative.

The risk of contracting the virus through unprotected heterosexual sex is usually about one-tenth of one per cent. It increases many times if either partner has a genital disease, and India has the highest incidence of sexually transmitted diseases in the world, he says.

Professional blood donors, who donate blood or plasma, are also a high-risk group, Dr. Gilada said. About eight per cent of those who donate only blood are HIV-positive, but the number is as high as 80 per cent for those who give

blood that is re-injected into them after plasma has been separated.

Driving toward Kamatipura, he pointed to a group of ragged, emaciated men squatting on the pavement.

"That is a group of donors," he said. "And when they get paid, they blow the money on sex or drugs."

Blood testing is only conducting at blood banks in the main cities of Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Delhi, he said. A donor who is HIV-positive slips out of Bombay to a neighbouring town, sells his blood and comes back, all within a few hours.

Earlier this year, an up-market Delhi clinic that caters mainly to the wealthy and foreigners resident in India's capital, said it received samples from a blood bank contaminated with the AIDS virus.

The bottles were sealed with a note saying the blood had been tested and found pure. The government has

announced an inquiry.

Dr. Gilada says screening of blood donors and promoting the use of disposable syringes and condoms are the best ways of scaling down the epidemic.

He says he cannot do much about the first two, but hopes his condom-promotion tours will bring results.

"Brothers, this is a disease for which there is no cure,"

he tells one group of men. "Be protected."

Some men smirked. Most avoided eye contact. No one accepted the condoms that Dr. Gilada offered free. A policeman wandered over and tried to shoo away the audience.

Some of the many watching prostitutes took up to 30 packets each.

"We don't allow anyone who isn't wearing it to touch us," said Parveen, a pockmarked young woman dressed in a skirt and a short cotton top. She said most of her clients did not mind.

An inmate of a transsexual brothel across the street signalled that some condoms would be welcome there too.

Vinay Kumar, a volunteer

helper who works with Dr. Gilada, dodged past lumbering trucks and smoke-spewing vans to hand them over.

"We hardly reach 10 per cent of all prostitutes in the city," he said. "But we are making a beginning," he pointed to used condoms discarded in the gutter outside the brothels.

WHO urges women to breast-feed despite AIDS risk

By Philippe Naughton
Reuters

GENEVA — The World Health Organisation (WHO) confirmed Monday that the AIDS virus could be transmitted through mother's milk.

He said studies showed the vast majority of babies breast-fed by HIV positive mothers did not become infected.

Yet breast-feeding helped protect babies against diarrhoeal diseases, pneumonia and other serious infections.

The U.N. health body recommended that "the breast-feeding of babies should be promoted and supported in all populations, irrespective of HIV infection rates."

According to the latest WHO estimates, 10-12 million adults worldwide have been infected by the HIV

virus. About a third of those are women although increasing heterosexual transmission means that proportion is rising.

"About half a million children have developed full-blown AIDS, the last stage of the disease."

Dr. Merson said only one-third of babies born to HIV-positive mothers became infected, normally during pregnancy or delivery.

The slim risk of infection through breast-feeding meant women should generally carry on with the practice even when they had been identified as carrying the AIDS virus.

Last week's meeting agreed, however, that some HIV-positive women should bottle-feed their babies.

"In settings where infectious diseases are not the primary causes of death during infancy, pregnant women known to be infected with HIV should be advised not to breast-feed but to use a safe feeding alternative for their babies," the 25 experts said in a joint statement issued Monday.

Dr. Merson rejected suggestions that this meant women from the developed world could choose whether or not to breast-feed while those from poorer countries were being urged to do so.

"The bottom line is what is best for the baby," he said. "If you have a setting where there's a lot of disease and malnutrition, breast-feeding is very important for the survival of the child."

U.S. hospitals, doctors accused of unnecessary surgical deliveries

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly a half million U.S. women a year are having babies delivered unnecessarily by caesarean section, often for the enrichment or convenience of doctors and hospitals, a consumer group said.

"Although caesarean sections are done by doctors with advanced degrees, caesarean sections are a major example of violence against women," said Dr. Sidney Wolfe, director of Public Citizen's Health Research Group.

The organisation, founded by consumer advocate Ralph Nader, said no more than 12 per cent of childbirths should be by caesarean. This is a surgical procedure in which the baby is removed through an incision in the mother's abdominal wall supposedly because vaginal birth is considered to be a risk to the

mother or the child.

In a report released Tuesday, the group said the figure in 1990 was 22.7 per cent, a small but "statistically significant" drop from the 23 per cent rate of a year earlier.

In 1970 the rate was just 5.5 per cent, Public Citizen said.

Still, in 1990 "an extra 450,500 women had caesarean sections," Dr. Wolfe said.

"The epidemic of caesarean surgery seems to have turned the corner, and will hopefully continue to decrease until it reaches half the rate in 1990," the organisation's report said.

The group cited several factors for the change, including hospital caesarean reduction programmes, consumer group campaigns and news media focus on the issue, plus the fact that some health insurers began reim-

bursing physicians at the same rate for vaginal and caesarean deliveries.

Ingrid Vantuinen, who researched and wrote the report, said there is no evidence to back up often-used arguments that doctors do caesareans to protect themselves from possible malpractice lawsuits later if something should go wrong with a vaginal birth.

Caesareans cost more money, on the average an extra \$2,852 in 1989, she said.

"I think that financial factors obviously do have an impact," Vantuinen said. "I don't know if I would say if physicians consciously decided to do a caesarean for the money."

But Dr. Wolfe said hospitals also have a financial stake in filling their beds, and Caesareans represent one way to do that.

In addition, he said there is

anecdotal evidence that some doctors do the operation because they are in a hurry, rather than for bona fide medical reasons. "Convenience is a major factor," Dr. Wolfe said.

The organisation collected statistics from 47 states and Washington, D.C. It named several hospitals in Louisiana, Kentucky and Nevada where half or more of the births were by caesarean section.

"Louisiana women are being butchered by obstetricians," Dr. Wolfe said.

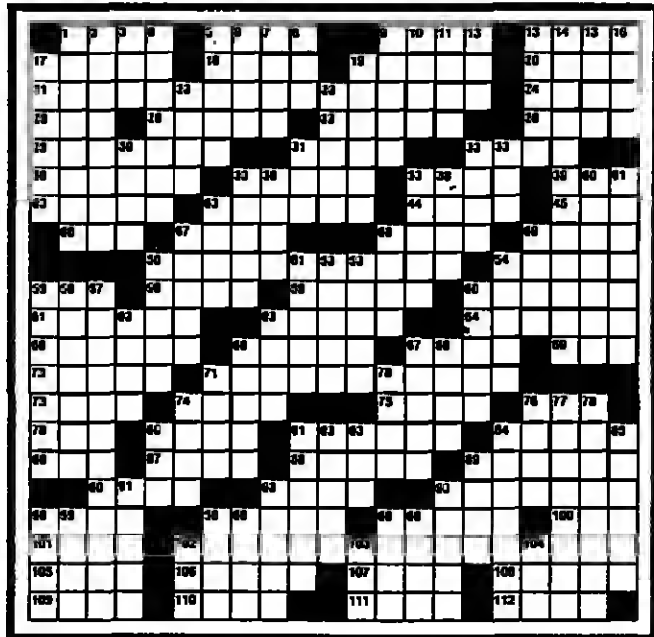
More than one-third of the caesareans in the United States are performed on women who previously had given birth that way, but the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has been urging those women and their doctors to attempt to deliver later babies vaginally.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

PLAYTIME
By Raymond Hamel

- ACROSS
- 1 Homed vipers
 - 2 Salsbury start
 - 3 Rock ridge
 - 4 Fossil
 - 5 Root beer and ice cream
 - 6 Hand or horse start
 - 7 Yo-Yo Ma's instrument
 - 8 "Blonde" neighbor
 - 9 It makes Jack out
 - 10 Free fall
 - 11 Weather word
 - 12 Richard or Harold
 - 13 Rochester's love
 - 14 Autocrat
 - 15 Counterpart
 - 16 Pakistani garment
 - 17 Tip off
 - 18 Actress Shari

- 19 Shark movie
- 20 Gun go
- 21 Vista
- 22 Tower
- 23 Eye part
- 24 TV actor Barnes
- 25 Edison
- 26 On
- 27 Begone
- 28 Sam
- 29 Buge role
- 30 Cartography term
- 31 Spine's
- 32 Jury
- 33 Similar
- 34 New lead role
- 35 A finance
- 36 Malesman in
- 37 Rained in
- 38 Rounded up



Last Week's Cryptograms

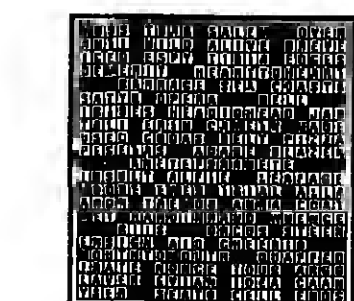
1. Myrtle bible reader aroused prayerful congregation by saying "im-mor-tal friend" for "Immortal Friend."
2. Fine connoisseur praised the bouquet, then pronounced our bouquet to be as scrumptious as it was sumptuous.
3. New grandfather in writing his friends: "All in fine and dandiel."
4. That which is always perfectly simple is simply perfect.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. STASTMLWIRUMPUC? WCK MJUXTWAUIY XULCHQMATA? JWPITY YUEMPATY RUBQ WCY SUSQ. —By Lois H. Jones
2. XVZO EBL EOCOP XGO WBOBP EBL HGBLXQ BPC PMIO, BPC ZBP'L IMVPL LXWFOC BX XGO LGWIO. —By Gordon Miller
3. LRYUFUBNY ZRXGTAUO ZTYTZO ZCRXYM BCTYO NZ LOTZUMTAFUNY BRAGTAFURAZ ATNO. —By Barbara J. Rugg
4. ABCDEF C DH IJKE KBCDEFIL "KF BEF LFMCOG DCAF MBNF OBLJFI JFNFO BOG FJFNFO LFFO GFIIFEDFG" —By Eugene T. Malaska

- Diagramless 21 x 21. By James Barrick
- ACROSS
- 1 Settled after flight
 - 2 Name of baseball
 - 3 Coppenhagen
 - 4 Cut into cubes
 - 5 Sailboat sign
 - 6 Ogden line post
 - 7 Piece of news
 - 8 Actor
 - 9 Involving
 - 10 Schoolroom item
 - 11 Santa — Calif
 - 12 After deductions

- 13 Lulu food
- 14 Of a bygone time
- 15 Roundness
- 16 Rock star
- 17 Inhabitants of
- 18 Platter
- 19 Bitter herb
- 20 Springs
- 21 Indian of Machu
- 22 Plozu
- 23 — Barcelona



Hot flushes? Try soy Japanese-style

LONDON (R) — A report in Britain's Lancet medical journal suggests that soy products may diminish hot flushes and other symptoms of the female menopause.

Finnish and U.S. experts led by Herman Aldercreutz of Helsinki University's Clinical Chemistry Department

looked at why such symptoms were apparently rare among Japanese women.

Was it just "cultural indifference to the change?"

Perhaps not. Japanese women were found to have in their bodies substances, associated with diet and spe-

cifically with soya products, which contained in a weak form the female hormone oestrogen.

The researchers speculated in a letter to the Lancet that these isoflavonoids "could have biological effects, especially in postmenopausal

women with low oestrogen levels."

"High levels of isoflavonoid phyto-oestrogens may partly explain why hot flushes and other menopausal symptoms are so infrequent in Japanese women," they said.

American students tour region with the 'mission' of 'erasing misconceptions about Arab World'

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two young Arab American girls from New York universities have embarked on a long journey, in a self-assumed tour aimed at erasing misconceptions about the Arab World in the minds of people in the United States.

Fida and Suzanne Adely, presently in Amman, are among the few students in United States universities who actively demonstrated against military action during the Gulf war, and faced a great deal of flak in the process.

"We would demonstrate, hold debates, and write articles in our respective universities to express that we were against war," Suzanne who is majoring in history said. "But there were situations when we were called communists."

People believed that because Suzanne and Fida were actively drawing attention to the fact that they are against war they were "traitors who turned their backs on their own country when it needed them most, in war time."

"But it was not just the actual war we were against," Fida who is majoring in Middle East studies said. "We wanted to remove all traces of misinformation about the Arab world."



Fida Adely

Suzanne's professor, for example, graded her wrong on her test when she wrote that Iran was not an Arab country. "And he was teaching the class that that is the case," Fida said. "Some people there also thought that the Arab World was all clumped together as one country where danger prevails and people wear in veils," she said, adding that she hoped to see more classes teaching Middle East-related subjects.

Fida and Suzanne said that they tried several approaches to discuss "why war is bad," and they discovered that many people did not believe in war but supported it anyway.

"We don't like war but we have to do this," was one argument we



Suzanne Adely

heard," Fida said. "At some symposium which we held, and at debates, there were situations where we would support one point and there would be no counterargument by people for war. It was simply blind patriotism," she added.

As one of 50 students at her university of 4,000 who were against war, Fida felt that more than debating was necessary. "We started a club with peace and justice as its theme," she said.

"In my university too, we reinstated a club which had an anti-war theme, but we were always a minority," Suzanne said. "So we started to join demonstrations against war, often held in Man-

battan. We also started to get involved in writing, and distributing flyers because we noticed that the media cared more about selling newspapers than accuracy," she said. "We would see misleading headlines that had negative undertones. Subsequently, we felt that most of the news was one-sided."

Fida and Suzanne said that even with arguments like: "It is too costly to wage a war" and drawing attention to "double standards," many people were unconvinced.

They both agree that it is during peace when they could be more convincing, but they admit they have a long way to go.

"You would think that the people who were against war, like us, were other Arab Americans, but they were all Americans with no Arab origins. Many Arabs living in the states do not want to rock the boat. They keep low profiles and work for their own benefits and needs," Fida said.

"When we go back home in two months, we will continue to remove the veil of misconception about the Arab World," Suzanne said. "It is a lot to tackle, but we will do it," she said, adding that with further education she could eventually teach some classes on the Arab World.

Rabbi stabbed to death in Gaza

(Continued from page 1)

bed and killed an Israeli girl in the Tel Aviv suburb of Bat Yam. The 19-year-old attacker, a Gaza resident, was captured.

Angry Jews attacked Arabs on the streets of the Jewish working-class suburb and nearby towns on Sunday and Monday. Jews stabbed and wounded at least two Arabs, one an Israeli citizen.

Thousands of angry residents, chanting "Death to Arabs," rioted in Bat Yam on Tuesday night complaining of a lack of security. Police used force to disperse the protesters and arrested more than 100.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens reacted to the stabbing on Sunday by ordering exits from the Gaza Strip closed until Thursday. He decided to extend the order for three days at a meeting on Tuesday night, the army announced on Wednesday.

In Jenin on Wednesday, Palestinians shut their stores in mourning after soldiers fatally shot Najiyeh Al Ayed Zakarnch, 55, in the back.

An Israeli military source said the army and police were investigating the incident.

The army said that the body of Zakarnch, from the village of Kabbatiyeh, was brought by relatives to a hospital in Jenin.

Arab reporters quoted witnesses as saying the incident happened when a bus carrying troops was stoned. A shot from the bus hit her, they said.

Arab reports also said two 13-year-old boys were seriously injured in Rafah in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday while playing with a live Israeli army grenade.

Security Council keeps sanctions

(Continued from page 1)

said. Iraq promised in April to reply to questions about nuclear enrichment — a key step for creating an atomic bomb — and about where it obtained important supplies and equipment for its nuclear programme.

The main task of Mr. Perrioc's team is to get the answers. The New York Times reported Wednesday that the United States was sponsoring a campaign to flood Iraq with counterfeit currency, in order to destabilise the economy and the government of Saddam Hussein. The campaign had been reported to March by the Sunday Telegraph of London.

The Times report said the campaign was openly discussed in Iraq, and that stores in big cities had equipment to test large bills. It said the Baghdad government had instituted life sentences for those involved in circulating bogus currency.

In another development, a consultant's report says that Iraq may have got round a cash squeeze brought on by the United Nations oil export embargo by secretly selling more than \$500 million worth of gold.

There have been persistent market rumours of Iraq sales over the past six months, which could have contributed to a fall in gold prices to a six-year low of around \$334 an ounce, Gold Fields Mineral Services said in its gold 1992 report.

Stewart Murray, the firm's chief executive, said the sales might have totalled 50 tonnes and have come from a board estab-

lished outside Iraq. "There was a lot of talk Iraq had sold. But the beauty of gold is its anonymity," one senior bullion dealer said.

Iraq last revealed its gold reserves in 1977, when they were put at 129 tonnes, Gold Fields said.

Simon Edge, Iraqi specialist at the Middle East Economic Digest, said there had been speculation for some time over how Iraq's government was managing to raise currency to pay for imports of food and medicine.

An estimated \$4 billion in Iraqi foreign reserves are believed to have been frozen in Western accounts since the United Nations imposed a trade embargo on the country in 1990, he said.

"If you have a resource such as gold which is relatively easy to get rid of in a fairly anonymous way, it would obviously pay to use it," Mr. Edge said.

Diplomatic sources said there had been frequent rumours of Iraq paying for food imports through secret bank accounts containing billions of dollars.

"I think reports of billions of dollars stashed away in a network of secret accounts are grossly exaggerated, but the regime appears to have made a priority of maintaining power by keeping people fed," Mr. Edge said.

London bullion dealers said it would not be difficult to disguise Iraq as the origin of any gold sales, particularly if the supply came through third parties in areas such as Eastern Europe or the Middle East.

Israeli-Lebanese battle continues

(Continued from page 1)

Syria, the U.S. State Department called on Syria, Israel and Lebanon to exercise restraint (see page 2).

Syria, Lebanon's main power broker and Israel's most implacable Arab foe, has 40,000 peace-keeping troops deployed over almost 80 per cent of Lebanese territories, 20,000 of them concentrated in the eastern Bekaa Valley.

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy said that Syria, which has 40,000 troops in Lebanon, must act to defuse what he called an explosive danger in South Lebanon.

"It's a bomb which could explode at any moment, even if Syria has no interest in this," Mr. Levy told the French Antenne 2 television station in Paris. "That is why it is indispensable and even vital that Syria put an end to this danger."

Associated Press reporter Barot Wana, telephoning from the zone, said the thunder of outgoing barrages scared even the zone's residents into scurrying to bomb shelters.

Police said there was no im-

mediate report of Lebanese casualties on the ninth successive day of hostilities.

There also was no response from the stricken areas southeast of the market town of Nabatiyeh, facing the northern edge of the "security zone."

AP's Nabatiyeh reporter, Edmond Shedd, said the four targeted villages were obscured by gray smoke after more than two hours of shelling.

The bombardment came about three hours after Prime Minister Rasbid Solh inspected South Lebanon in the first visit to the region by a Lebanese head of government since the 1975-1990 civil war.

Mr. Solh, along with six members of his newly formed cabinet, stopped in Sidon and Nabatiyeh, near Iqlim Al Toufal.

The area was the scene of an hour-long air raid Tuesday, Israel's fifth in six days. It capped the heaviest Israeli air assaults in single week since the 1982.

Syrian troops stationed in the Bekaa Valley fired anti-aircraft guns Tuesday on two Israeli jets apparently flying reconnaissance mission over the ancient city of Baalbek, Hizbollah's power base.

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Sanchez Vicario is 1st to reach third round in French Open

PARIS (R) — Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, back on the centre court where she won the French Open title three years ago, became the first player into the third round Wednesday.

But the fourth-seeded Spaniard made her own life difficult in the 6-3, 6-2 victory over Switzerland's Emanuela Zardo.

Watched by her older brothers Emilio and Javier, who are also competing here, the 20-year-old Sanchez Vicario made frequent backhand errors to give away points.

The Spaniard, who lost in the final here last year to Yugoslav Monica Seles, has reached three finals on clay this season but needs to sharpen up her game if she is to have another crack at the French title.

After two exchanges of breaks early in the opening set, Sanchez Vicario broke again to go 4-3 up and then fended off two break-points to hold.

Zardo, who complained frequently about line calls, hit a double fault to give Sanchez Vicario set point in the next game and then put a forehand long.

The crucial break of the second set came in the sixth game as Zardo began to lose her patience. Sanchez Vicario allowed the Swiss woman only two more points, finishing off the match in one hour 31 minutes on another break.

"It wasn't an easy match and that helps me for the next one," Sanchez Vicario said.

"This is my favourite tournament and my favourite surface," added Sanchez Vicario, who is looking forward to playing the Olympic tournament in her home town of Barcelona this summer. "I always have a good time here."

German Anke Huber, the ninth seed, breezed past Czechoslovakia's Radka Zrubkova 6-2, 6-2 in one of a clutch of first-round matches held over because of rain delays.

American Michael Chang, who won the men's title in the same year that Sanchez Vicario triumphed, needed little time to finish off a first-round victory over Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands.

The match had been interrupted by bad light at 6-4, 6-3, 3-1 to the fifth-seeded Chang Tuesday evening and the American raced to take the third-set score to 6-3 after the resumption.

Henri Leconte, the runner-up here in 1988 and one of the heroes of France's Davis Cup triumph last year, also had no problems in the first round, beating Italian Massimo Cierro 6-1, 7-5, 6-0.

Thirteenth seed Aaron Krickstein of the U.S. took a fall towards the end of his opening match against Dutchman Mark Koevermans and appeared to hurt his left hand.

But the American, runner-up in Monte Carlo last month, continued to win 3-6, 6-3, 6-1, 6-3.

McEnroe bows out

John McEnroe learned one of life's hardest lessons on Tuesday — age catches up with everyone. Though he is not a seed this year, having dropped to 36th in the world, the American is still one of the biggest draws at the French Open.

While all the other big names in action on Tuesday's second day progressed safely into the second round, it was the defeat of McEnroe, in his last year here, that attracted the most attention.

Not even the collective will of 16,500 adoring fans on the centre court could lift the former world number one out of trouble and he was beaten 6-2, 7-5, 6-7, 7-5 by Swede Niclas Kulti.

"I think realistically my time has passed and it's time for other people," said McEnroe, now 33. "I am disappointed I lost but everything comes to an end," added the American who plans to

make this his final year on the international tour. "I suppose that I am a little bit sad."

McEnroe's superb career includes four U.S. Open titles and three Wimbledon titles but the closest he ever came to winning the Roland Garros clay was in 1984 when he lost in the final to Ivan Lendl.

McEnroe showed flashes of his old brilliance, especially in winning the third-set tiebreak 7-5, as well as flashes of his famous temper.

He swore at a court-side photographer when he was disturbed by the noise of a film rewinding and earned a warning from umpire Bruno Rebeuh for racket abuse after dropping his serve late in the second set.

Agassi, Lendl advance

McEnroe's defeat was not quite his swansong at Roland Garros. He is playing doubles here with compatriot Andre Agassi. English fans will also have a last chance to see him, when he plays Wimbledon next month.

Agassi, the losing finalist here for the last two years, had a good start to his 1992 campaign with a 6-1, 6-4, 6-4 defeat of Argentine Javier Frana.

Sporting designer stuhle, a headscarf and pirate-style and a navy, turquoise and white outfit, Agassi was cheered wildly by fans on court one.

The victory was an important confidence boost for the 11th seed, who has won only one tournament this year, in Atlanta, and has slipped out of the world's top 10.

"It's a good sign that I'm playing well again," said Agassi who has yet to win a Grand Slam title. "It's the first time in months that I feel better about things."

Lendl, another man who has been having a poor year, had an equally important win for the

sake of his morale, thrashing Spaniard Sergi Bruguera, once considered among the best clay-court players, 6-4, 6-2, 6-1.

The 32-year-old Lendl, who last month dropped out of the top 10 for the first time in more than 10 years, won here three times in the 1980s but has missed the last two opens.

He made a shaky start in the heat on centre court Tuesday, over-hitting frequently, and there were four breaks of serve in the first six games.

But after a 30-minute interval early in the second set, while workers laid more clay to dry out the court after Monday evening's heavy rain, Lendl settled down and wrapped up victory in one hour 34 minutes.

"I just didn't have my timing right at first and as the match went on I got better and better," the Czechoslovak, seeded 10th, said.

Sweden's Stefan Edberg, who has won every Grand Slam event but never the French, had to work much harder than expected to get past wild card Olivier Soules, who inspired by his home fans, played a battling match.

Edberg, seeded second, had three matchpoints in the third set before losing it on a tiebreak and had to struggle in the fourth set before taking the match 7-5, 6-1, 6-7, 7-5.

"It's good to go through this where a lot of things were going against me," said the newly-married Edberg, who was beaten in the 1989 final here.

In the women's draw Gabriela Sabatini, who won in Rome this month, and Monica Seles, the player she beat in the final, dropped only one game between them in reaching the second round.

Argentine Sabatini, the third seed, lost only a handful of points in whitewashing Italian Silvia Farina while defending champion and top seed Seles needed only 47 minutes to beat Frenchwoman Catherine Mothes 6-1, 6-0.

UEFA considers possible ban of Yugoslav team

STOCKHOLM (R) — UEFA considering banning Yugoslavia from next month's European Soccer Championship finals in Sweden after calls for international sanctions against Serbia.

"We have to review the situation in the light of what has happened lately," European Football Union (UEFA) President Lennart Johansson told Reuters Wednesday.

Mr. Johansson, a Swede, said he would meet International Football Association (FIFA) President Joao Havelange and FIFA General Secretary Sep Blatter in Wales Friday to jointly decide on Yugoslavia's participation.

He said that if they decided to drop Yugoslavia then Denmark would fill their place in preliminary Group 1 alongside France, England and hosts Sweden.

Mr. Johansson said Denmark had been told to remain on standby for the June 10-26 championship.

The Oanes finished second in Yugoslavia's qualifying group. "Denmark would be prepared," he said.

The Yugoslavs were due to arrive in Stockholm Thursday after playing a friendly against Italian club Fiorentina Wednesday, and Mr. Johansson said UEFA was waiting to see who was in their squad before taking any decision.

"That will also guide us, to see what kind of a team they are

having," Mr. Johansson said. Top players from Bosnia-Herzegovina, including Captain Faruk Hadzibegic, have resigned from the team already as has coach Ivica Osim, who comes from Sarajevo.

Slovenian and Croatian players have also pulled out of the squad that originally qualified for the finals while star striker Darko Pancev, a Macedonian national, withdrew Monday saying that he lacked any motive to play.

Friday's meeting will not be the first time officials have considered a ban on Yugoslavia.

In January, Johansson was quoted as saying that he did not see how Yugoslavia could compete in Sweden in the light of the conflict in newly-independent Croatia.

"On the basis of the civil war there ... I find it very hard to see how Yugoslavia could be among the participants in the European finals this summer," he said then.

UEFA subsequently accepted Yugoslavia but reserved the right to alter the decision to meet new developments.

The European Community has been considering a variety of sanctions against Serbia for its role in the Yugoslavia crisis, but has not yet decided whether to go through the United Nations Security Council first.

The Swedish government is also considering sanctions.

Mansell out to beat the jinx in Monte Carlo

MONTE CARLO (R) — Nigel Mansell has won everything in Formula One this season but his biggest test will come on the streets of Monte Carlo Sunday.

The Briton's Williams is the car to beat at the moment and he is the driver to beat but logic plays no part on an unforgiving 3.338 km circuit he has never conquered.

Mansell has twice led in Monaco and each time the jinx has dashed his hopes. Last year, he was runner-up.

This year, the obstacles are undiminished. If there is one race defending world champion Ayrton Senna wants to win, then this is most surely it.

The Brazilian has had a troubled season with McLaren but loves the special atmosphere of his adopted European home town

and has won here four times in the last five years.

McLaren have an even stronger track record, winning every race bar one since Williams' last triumph in 1983.

But Senna, whose new McLaren MP4/7A is unlikely to be as suited to the slow and winding track as the Williams, is not the only threat to Mansell's sixth successive win.

His Italian team mate Riccardo Patrese, increasingly desperate for a win of his own after finishing second in four of the five races, could prove even more dangerous.

This track has a special significance for me as I drove my first Grand Prix here in 1977 and won my first race here in 1982. The grid position is very important as overtaking is very restricted — so qualifying well is vital," he said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MAY 29, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Fine ideas occur to you today that offer advancement more quickly in your own life of endeavor and you will find others to be more cooperative since your using wiser tactics on them.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Your best outlet now is with a new associate or partner of good judgment for unusual conditions regarding attitudes and personal wishes are in strong contrast.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Consider well your present material position and avoid the temptation either to get in an argument over money or to commit yourself to too much.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Think about what you can best do to keep away from one with whom you are almost bound to have a fight and use your fine judgment in personal needs.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have an inspiration about how to do whatever your activities are with more gusto so don't slough it off by trying it and you have success.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) An invitation you had not foreseen comes to you and will be the means by which you can have one of the most interesting times quickly and in follow-ups.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Family affairs can come into

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MAY 28, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Saturn goes Retrograde this morning so be careful not to alienate anyone of importance who can be helpful by some sudden action on your part that could throw another person off base or create confusion.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your own good judgment can prevail and you can prevail and you can benefit from a message or person from a distance who enters into your present scheme of living.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Sit back and observe the financial heebie-jeebie that are going on about you whether in person or in print and you can extract a good lesson from them.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You are bursting with annoyance with an associate but it is necessary that you do not show too plainly or you lose out on a potentially good deal.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take some time out now to keep calm and poised despite some situation that occurs that seems to block your present advancement.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Differences between friends and the one you are fond of can cause quite a great deal of tension but your mind effort on soothing your own attachment.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Now you find that both at home and in the world of action you can be having some questions

just how to handle a complex situation but don't make a decision.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are eager to have an exciting time but find friends either unable or unwilling to join with you but don't get upset for an associate will be a better companion anyway.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Money matters may seem to take a very unexpected turn so don't react quickly and take any risks or you can lose considerably at this time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You want to remember an unreliable or flighty partner but it would not help you, only make matters worse and instead build up your own energy.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A secret worry or annoyance can cause you to make a move which would seriously interfere with your progress at activities you've promised to do.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Do either what friends and acquaintances on the one hand or mate on the other want that fits your plans but don't express your unwillingness.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Matters at your residence can be at a pretty poor state if you argue there and the same applies to whatever foretold actions you take in the outside world.

ITV fails in court bid to stall soccer TV deal

LONDON (R) — Britain's Independent Television (ITV) company failed Tuesday to block a £204-million (\$550 million) contract giving satellite broadcaster BSkyB exclusive rights to live cover of top English soccer matches.

ITV went to London's High Court claiming breach of confidence after learning that details of its bid were given to rival British Sky Broadcasting hours

before a decisive meeting last week to decide on the five-year contract.

BSkyB, which is 50 per cent owned by News Corp Ltd of Australia and media mogul Rupert Murdoch, subsequently revised its bid and won the contract.

The deal caused outrage among soccer fans who will have to buy satellite dishes to watch live matches of the new, 22-club

Premier League which kicks off in August.

But the court ruled as inappropriate ITV's request for a 14-day injunction against the Premier League and BSkyB in order to allow ITV to make a new bid in an "even and fair contest."

The order which he asked for on this occasion is not the right order to make and I decline to make it," Justice Francis Ferris said after a five-hour hearing.

He left the door open to ITV to issue a writ claiming damages, but said the company — which has held TV soccer rights since 1988 — would have to prove beyond doubt that there had been a breach of confidence.

"We are very disappointed," a spokesman for ITV told reporters after the hearing. Asked whether ITV would take the case further, he added: "We will be considering all the angles."

Mandela wins bigger Barcelona team for Pretoria

JOHANNESBURG (R) — The International Olympic Committee has eased its limit on South Africa's team for the Barcelona games and "just over" 100 athletes and officials will now attend, South Africa's Olympic chief said Wednesday.

Sam Ramsamy, chairman of the National Olympic Committee (NOCSA), said the IOC relaxed the limit after talks in Lausanne on Monday between IOC Presi-

dent Juan Antonio Samaranch and visiting African National Congress President Nelson Mandela.

"We have been able to get just over 100 places in the Olympic village because everyone has understood our problems," Mr. Ramsamy told a news conference.

"It would not have been possible without the intervention of Mr. Mandela. We don't know

what Nelson Mandela and Mr. Samaranch discussed (but) the South African Sporting Community owes a great debt to the ANC and Mr. Mandela. It was extraordinarily helpful."

Mr. Ramsamy said South Africa would compete in 18 disciplines. He declined to disclose the exact size of the team but indicated athletes would number slightly under 100.

Mr. Ramsamy held talks with the IOC in Lausanne Monday on the size of South Africa's team. He said it was a coincidence Mr. Mandela, who is touring Europe, met the IOC on the same day.

NOCSA originally sought permission to send 182 people, way over the limit of 68 set by the IOC, which has tried to curb numbers to prevent overcrowding at the Olympic village.

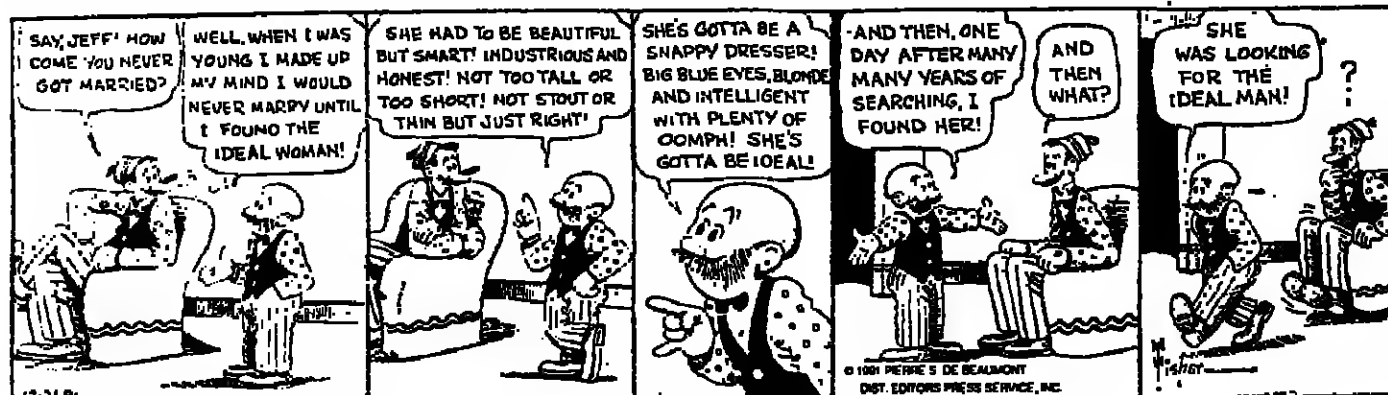
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A104 VA ♠AQ103 ♠A10652
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

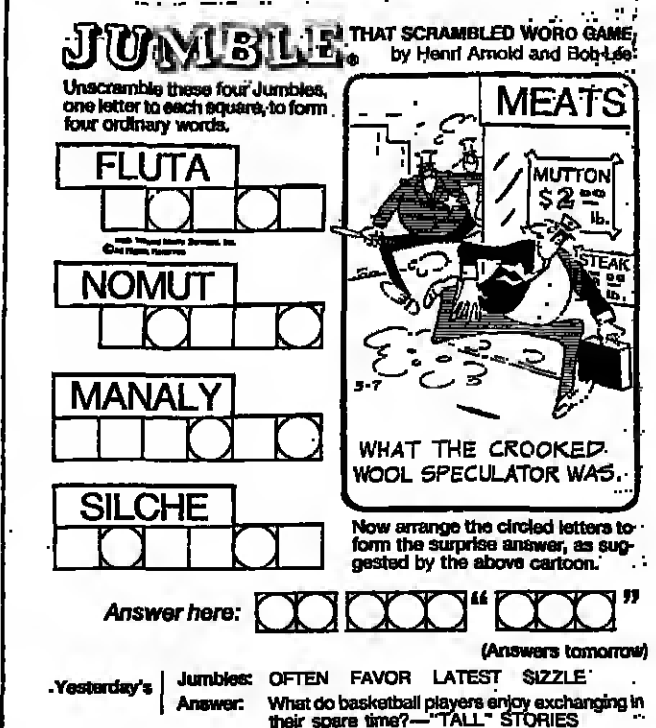
Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠104 VA ♠1098654 ♠10652 ♠QJ
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 2 ♠ ?
What action do you take?

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠92 ♠Q643 ♠K543 ♠852
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ 2 ♠ ?
What action do you take?

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KQ ♠J9 ♠AQKJ ♠AKQ103
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with three spades. What do you bid now?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A52 ♠KQ1084 ♠J97 ♠82
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K55 ♠A83 ♠A96 ♠KJ74
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ ?
What action do you take?



Financial Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE Date: 26.5.92	TOKYO CLOSE Date: 27.5.92
Sterling Pound	1.8250	1.8156
Deutsche Mark	1.6128	1.6220
Swiss Franc	1.4825	1.4899
French Franc	5.4220	5.4788
Japanese Yen	129.50	129.78
European Currency Unit	1.2735	1.2603

For 31st
European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.00	4.00	4.62	4.62
Sterling Pound	9.81	10.68	9.75	9.93
Deutsche Mark	9.62	9.62	9.62	9.63
Swiss Franc	9.18	9.00	8.81	8.62
French Franc	9.81	9.81	9.75	9.75
Japanese Yen	4.71	4.65	4.68	4.62
European Currency Unit	10.06	10.06	10.06	9.93

Interbank bid rates for currencies covering U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	0.679	0.679	0.681	0.681
Sterling Pound	1.2304	1.2304	1.2366	1.2366
Deutsche Mark	0.4181	0.4181	0.4202	0.4202
Swiss Franc	0.4588	0.4588	0.4581	0.4581
French Franc	0.1244	0.1244	0.1250	0.1250
Japanese Yen	0.5229	0.5229	0.5255	0.5255
Dutch Guilder	0.3713	0.3713	0.3732	0.3732
Swedish Krona	0.1161	0.1161	0.1167	0.1167
Italian Lira	0.0556	0.0556	0.0559	0.0559
Belgian Franc	0.02045	0.02045	0.02055	0.02055

For 31st

Currency	Bid	Offer
Saudi Riyal	1.7720	1.7800
Libyan Dinar	0.0390	0.0425
Saudi Riyal	0.1808	0.1822
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.1840	0.1852
Qatari Riyal	0.1840	0.1852
Egyptian Pound	0.2210	0.2220
Omani Riyal	0.2380	0.2390
UAE Dirham	0.1840	0.1852
Greek Drachma	0.3500	0.3700
Cypriot Pound	1.4750	1.4920

For 31st

Index	26.5.92	Close	24.7.92	Close
All-Share	141.22	141.97	141.97	141.97
Banking Sector	104.80	105.15	105.15	105.15
Insurance Sector	150.64	151.50	151.50	151.50
Industry Sector	192.53	193.86	193.86	193.86
Services Sector	175.05	176.25	176.25	176.25

December 31, 1990 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

One Sterling	1.8025/35	U.S. dollar	1.2023/28
One U.S. dollar	1.6325/35	Canadian dollar	1.3385/95
	1.4965/75	Deutschemark	33.55/59
	5.4780/30	Dutch guilder	5.4780/30
	1229/1230	Swiss franc	5.8765/8815
	130.20/30	Belgian franc	6.3625/75
	5.8765/8815	French franc	6.2945/95
	6.3625/75	Italian lire	338.60/339.00
	6.2945/95	Japanese yen	
One ounce of gold	338.60/339.00	Swedish crowns	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	

Receivers move in as U.K. property slump knocks out Mountleigh

LONDON (R) — Receivers Tuesday moved in at Mountleigh Group PLC, a major British property firm which fell victim to a slump which has cut a swathe through the ranks of the nation's second-tier real estate companies.

Accountants KPMG Peat Marwick were appointed by creditor banks Monday to sort out the affairs of the company.

Share analysts said Mountleigh, which has £500 million (\$910 million) of debts, had been teetering on the brink for months, and receivership came as little surprise.

"In many senses, it was only a matter of time," said Peter Grodzinski, property stock salesman at Paribas Capital Markets.

Analysts said the news would have little impact on the rest of Britain's property market, already reeling from Olympia & York (O.Y.) Developments Ltd's filing for bankruptcy protection in North America.

O.Y. are developers of the huge Canary Wharf office complex in London's docklands redevelopment area.

Instead, analysts said, the Mountleigh receivership might mean a quick sale of Mountleigh's chief overseas asset, the Galerías Preciados retail chain in Spain which could fetch £200 million to £300 million (\$364 to \$546 million).

Mountleigh had been in what some market-watchers call "shadow receivership," continuing as an operating company merely because its bankers preferred not to foreclose on it.

Several other British companies are in similar straits, having borrowed heavily during a 1980s property boom to acquire assets whose values tumbled in the early 1990s recession.

But unlike most, Mountleigh had borrowed on the bond market where loan covenants are more strict than with bank loans.

Last month, negotiations over the £125 million (\$228 million) sale of one of Mountleigh's major British developments, the Merry Hill shopping centre in the west midlands, collapsed.

Mountleigh badly needed the cash. That became clear last week when it said it was deferring payment of interest on a Swiss franc bond pending discussions with its bankers.

The London stock market was closed Monday for the spring bank holiday, but Tuesday shares in one or two of the most heavily indebted companies in the property sector fell sharply on the Mountleigh news.

Speyhawk PLC, whose banks agreed last month to restructure £300 million (\$546.3 million) of its debts and provide it with working capital to carry on, lost four pence to 9.5 pence, about half the level it stood at a week ago.

Britain's biggest property firm, Land Securities PLC, which last week reported a modest improvement in its annual profits despite a 17 per cent fall in assets per share, was three pence lower at 447 pence at a generally lower stock market.

Bank analysts said although banks were by far the largest lenders to Mountleigh, their debts were secured.

Shareholders, bond holders and unsecured creditors were therefore likely to take much of the impact if the receivers were unable to recover the sums owed by Mountleigh.

Egyptian parliament approves reform budget

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's parliament has approved a budget and five-year plan which the government says will bolster its economic reform programme and usher in an enterprise economy.

The government's 1992/93 budget, starting on July 1, cuts public spending in real terms. Total expenditure will rise 14 per cent to 62.5 billion pounds (\$18.9 billion) from 54.4 billion pounds (\$16.5 billion dollars) in 1991/2, but official estimates for inflation stand at over 20 per cent.

The three five-year plan aims to cut the budget deficit, increase tax revenues, double savings and leave investment in production to the private sector by 1997.

Egypt, which is trying to liberalise its economy after 40 years of socialist-style policies, plans to cut subsidies on staple goods by 14 per cent but will increase civil service salaries more or less in line with inflation.

The budget envisages a slight reduction of the budget deficit to 9.1 billion pounds (\$2.74 billion) from 9.3 billion (\$2.80 billion) in financial year 1991/2.

But military spending was set to rise by 22 per cent to 4.6 billion pounds (\$1.4 billion).

In the five-year plan, Egypt aims to increase tax revenue by nearly 10 per cent per year to 16.2 billion pounds (\$4.9 billion) by 1997 and double savings to 25.6 billion pounds (\$7.8 billion) a year over the same period.

Accounting for 25% of the total Food continues to top Jordan's list of imports

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Food topped the list of Jordan's imports during 1991, accounting for almost 25 per cent of the Kingdom's total purchases from external sources during the year, reflecting an annual increase of five per cent, official statistics show.

Jordan imported items classified under food and live animals worth JD 417.668 million in 1991 compared with JD 403.896 million in 1990. The 1991 figure represents almost 25 per cent of the total imports, i.e. JD 1,710.463 while the 1990 figure corresponds to around 20 per cent of the year's total imports i.e. JD 1,725.828 million.

The figure on food imports does not include cooking oil and fats, which amounted to JD 23.676 million classified under "animal and vegetable oils and fats" compared with JD 21.896 million in 1990.

The visible rise by almost JD 16 million in food product imports — including cooking oil — does not necessarily reflect the actual increase in the needs of the country of imported food as a result of the return home of over a quarter million expatriates if a closer study is made of the details of the figures.

Economic analysts say Jordan needs up to \$30 million in additional food imports every year to cope with the dramatic rise in population resulting from the return of expatriates and families.

Total imports of "live animals" amounted to JD 37.483 million in 1991 compared with JD 21.293 million in 1990; exports of live animals were worth JD 8.608 million, thus bringing down the actual increase to around JD 8 million.

Meat worth JD 55.617 million was imported during the year (compared with JD 34.982 million in 1990).

Imports of dairy products rose to JD 34.376 million from JD 27.504 million in 1990.

Wheat and flour imports declined to JD 61.773 million from JD 74.435 million in 1990 while imports of sugar totalled JD 45.926 million compared with JD 54.030 million in 1990 and rice accounted for JD 26.940 million compared with JD 27.889 million in the previous year.

Analysts pointed out that the "regularisation" of government subsidies through a monthly coupon system which took hold in early 1991 had contributed to the actual decreases in the imports of these products; only the government is authorised to import wheat, flour, sugar, rice and milk powder to Jordan. (The coupon system restricts the availability of subsidised products to Jordanian citizens).

Fruits, vegetables and nuts accounted for JD 14.078 million of the year's imports and coffee, tea, cocoa and spice imports totalled JD 14.078 million.

Beverages and tobacco imports amounted to JD 9.505 million (raw tobacco — JD 4.546 million; cigarettes — JD 3.407 million).

Following is a further split up of 1991 imports as given in the statistic bulletin of the Central Bank of Jordan:

Raw materials (inedible and excluding fuel) — JD 58.916 million (wood, lumber and cork — JD 699,000; textile fibres and waste — JD 10.886 million; oil seeds, oil nuts and oil kernels — JD 7.799 million).

Mineral fuels, lubricants, related materials — JD 247.454 million (crude oil — JD 193.663 million).

Animal and vegetable oil and fats — JD 23.676 million.

Chemicals — JD 218.764 million (medical and pharmaceutical products — JD 38.593 million; essential oils and perfume materials, polishing and etching preparations — JD 10.295 million; fertilisers — JD 6.822 million; plastic materials — JD 50.440 million).

Classified manufactured products — JD 327.848 million (rubber — JD 24.364 million; paper and cardboard — JD 43.205 million; textile yarn, fabrics and readymade garments — JD 76.953 million; cement — JD 13.000; iron and steel — JD 84.530 million).

Machinery and transport equipment — JD 299.085 million (electrical and non-electrical machinery — JD 149.177 million; transport equipment and spare parts — JD 149.908 million).

Miscellaneous manufactured articles — JD 93.958 million (furniture — JD 2.169 million; clothing and footwear — JD 25.238 million; scientific and photographic instruments and equipment — JD 20.945 million).

Commodities and transactions not registered elsewhere: JD 13.589 million.

Less than 15 per cent of Jordan's imports came from member states of the Arab common market, led by Iraq, which supplied the bulk of Jordan's crude oil needs.

The Kingdom imported crude oil worth a total of JD 193.663 million in 1991 compared with JD 236.067 million in 1990. No definite split-up of these figures was available, but Iraq oil, supplied to Jordan under a special exemption from the U.N. sanctions committee, accounted for the bulk of Jordan's needs.

Other Jordanian imports from the Arab common market included: Food and live animals — JD 13.801 million; beverages and tobacco — JD 190,000; raw materials (inedible) — JD 3.851; chemicals — JD 7.346 million; manufactured goods (including textiles, wood and glass) — JD 16.313 million; and miscellaneous products (including clothes) — JD 5.745 million.

Ottawa urges Canadians to buy national products

OTTAWA (R) — Canada, fighting a tenacious recession, has launched a campaign to persuade people to shop at home and is cracking down on smuggling from the United States, where goods can be a lot cheaper.

The government ran newspaper advertisements on Tuesday arguing that buying Canadian goods would create jobs and a stronger economy. Television spots in the 4.0 million Canadian dollars (\$3.3 million) campaign have been broadcast.

Canadian shoppers who flock to the United States to take advantage of lower taxes and a strong Canadian dollar have helped push bankruptcies to record levels in Canada.

In the last eight years, day trips from people in border towns to the United States to buy petrol and other goods have mushroomed to include extended shopping trips.

According to government figures there is a long-term trend towards shopping in the United States. In 1991, an 11 per cent rise in spending in the United States to a record 10.1 billion Canadian dollars (\$8.4 billion) caused Canada's international travel account deficit to expand to record levels.

"People want to believe in the positive attributes of 'made-in-Canada' products and services, yet choosing Canadian is not yet always top-of-mind when Canadians shop," Michael Wilson, Canada's minister of industry and trade, said.

Complaints by Canadian store owners eventually caught the ear of the government, but analysts are sceptical of the value of the campaign.

"It has finally got through to some people in Ottawa how much money has been lost," said John Winter, president of John Winter Associates, a retail consulting company.

"Unfortunately, consumers are not responding to nationalism any more. It might have worked 30 years ago, but it will not keep them at home now," he said.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks closed off lows, but the Nikkei average fell 32.08 points or 2.10 per cent to 17,822.56. It was the first close below 18,000 since May 6.

SYDNEY — Shares ended off their morning lows, helped by bargain hunting and a reasonable recovery by ANZ. The All Ordinaries closed 8.3 points at 1665.9.

HONG KONG — Buoyed by a flood of overseas cash, stocks continued their march to a third record high in a row. The Hang Seng Index was up 30.62 points ending at 6,082.70.

SINGAPORE — Shares added to gains as investors continued to snap up banking and property stocks. The Straits Times index rose 12.25 points to 1,506.54.

PARIS — U.S. brokers poured into French oil stocks, while most investors headed in the opposite direction and sold ahead of Thursday's Ascension Day holiday. The CAC-40 index ended at 2,014.09, down 15.49 points.

LONDON — Shares closed weaker on worries about the pace of economic recovery in Britain. The FTSE 100 index fell six points to close at 2,698.6.

NEW YORK — Investors hunted for bargains, reassured by mild gain among bonds and declining crude oil prices. The Dow was up 9.34 points at 3,373.55 at 1710 GMT.

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20 die in attack on Sarajevo shoppers

BELGRADE (R) — Serb forces fired three mortar bombs into a crowd of people queuing for ice cream and bread in Sarajevo Wednesday, killing at least 20 people and wounding up to 160, Bosnian medical officials said.

In one of the most brutal assaults in two months of war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, witnesses said broken bodies and blood were scattered over the streets of the capital in an attack from a hill held by Serb forces.

"There is blood and bits of bodies all over the street. I have never seen anything like it," photographer Danilo Krastanovic said by telephone from Sarajevo.

Bosnia's Muslim and Croat leaders threatened at emergency talks to pull out of all negotiations with Serb irregular forces ringing the city in resistance to Bosnian independence from Yugoslavia, sources close to the Bosnian presidency said.

The Serb fighters, who have cut the city of 500,000 off from the world, made no immediate comment.

In a further blow to peace hopes, the Serb forces failed to comply with an accord to open the city airport to allow humanitarian aid to reach trapped and starving civilians.

Horried at what they see as Serbian aggression in Bosnia, European Community (EC) ambassadors met in Brussels to discuss how to impose sanctions on Serbia.

Lower-ranking EC officials agreed in principle Tuesday that the community should press for a trade ban and an oil embargo to force Belgrade to pull troops out of Bosnia, but did not say if they would seek United Nations backing first.

Calls for international in-

tervention are mounting but some states suspect France of trying to slow down any moves and diplomats said a quick decision on sanctions appeared unlikely.

Sarajevo abruptly came under attack at about 10 a.m. (0800 GMT) after several days of relative peace in a conflict that has killed more than 2,250 people and forced more than one million from their homes.

Jovan Divjak, deputy commander of Bosnian Territorial Defence Forces, or Home Guard, said three mortar bombs hit the central Vase Miskina Street as people queued for bread on one side of the street and for ice cream on the other side.

They were fired from the Vrace Hill occupied by Serb forces, said Mr. Divjak, a Serb.

An emergency centre at Sarajevo University clinic said in a statement: "At least 20 people were killed and 50 were wounded in Wednesday's mortar bomb explosion."

"It is feared that the number of casualties could be much higher because some of the wounded were taken to other clinics which have not released information about their conditions."

Bosnia's crisis centre for medical and social protection, one of many crisis groups, said 160 people had been wounded. A Sarajevo Radio editor said snipers hindered rescue operations by firing on ambulances.

"Cars are now taking away dead and wounded people without legs and hands. Some are small children, most are elderly," Sarajevo economist Pamela Gidic said by telephone.

The Bosnian presidency condemned the mortar attack at emergency talks.



"During the meeting, it was said that this heavy assault on the people of Sarajevo may stop all political negotiations with the Serbs," a source close to the presidency said.

Serbian and Bosnian media carried reports of only sporadic fighting in other parts of Bosnia.

France denies blocking sanctions

France denied Wednesday it was dragging its feet over the imposition of trade sanctions on Serbia but said any sanctions must be part of a political strategy to achieve a negotiated solution to the Yugoslav crisis.

Diplomats in Brussels said some members of the European Community who wanted quick, sharp sanctions suspected France of stalling by invoking the need for a ministerial decision, and for

a U.N. Security Council resolution.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Maurice Gourdant-Montagne told reporters: "France has constantly repeated that it is not opposed to sanctions being on Serbia as long as they are part of a policy aiming to achieve a negotiated solution within the framework of ex-Yugoslavia."

He said only EC foreign ministers could take the final decision on imposing sanctions and noted that the Security Council was conducting parallel consultations in New York on a new resolution on Yugoslavia, including sanctions.

French officials said the divisive issues were whether to exclude Yugoslavia from international organisations or recognise the new federation established by Serbia and Montenegro as the legal successor of Yugoslavia.

Thailand in confusion as generals dig in

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand is floundering without a real government while the military, defying calls for reformation for its massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators, still holds the whiphand, diplomats said Wednesday.

"I don't think anyone is running the country right now. It's a mess. No one wants to make a decision," said one diplomat.

Four days after General Suchinda Kraprayoon quit as prime minister amid bloody protests, public scorn was turning on the pro-military coalition which invited the former army supreme commander to take over in the first place.

A new election now seemed likely to sort out the political confusion in the aftermath of the protests and Gen. Suchinda's resignation after 48 days as prime minister, diplomats said.

As Gen. Suchinda tried to cling to power, his troops outraged the usually tranquil nation by gunning down scores of protesters who had taken to the streets to demand he quit. At least 100 are believed to have died and aid agencies list 389 as missing.

Parliament Monday passed constitutional amendments to ensure that unelected people like Gen. Suchinda, who led a military coup in February 1991, could not walk into power again. But there now seems to be a power vacuum.

The credibility of the five-party coalition, never strong to begin with, is not in tatters.

"The five parties' submissiveness to Gen. Suchinda was nauseating," said The Nation newspaper in an editorial.

"They devoted themselves entirely to serving and glorifying Suchinda in total disregard of the electorate."

The Bangkok Post said: "Like a man who watches in dead silence and without any remorse as his colleague coldbloodedly kills another, they stood by idly while army troops mercilessly crushed pro-democracy demonstrators and virtually transformed Ratchadamnoen Avenue into a killing field."

Acting Prime Minister Meechai Ruachuan said Tuesday that dissolution of the present parliament, elected in March polls, would be the best way to end the political impasse.

He threatened to call new elections, a fearsome prospect for most parties because of the state of their treasuries. Funds have been depleted, many people say, through vote-buying.

Justice Minister Jiras Khamprakorb told reporters the coalition had agreed to dissolve itself, clearing the way for a new parliament. A new coalition could include opposition parties, he said.

The speaker of the lower house has called for the formation of a government for national rehabilitation.

Abhi Urairat said he had sent letters to all political parties asking them to forget their status in government or opposition, Thai Army Television reported.

Soldiers returned to barracks Tuesday after Mr. Meechai cancelled a state of emergency imposed last week. But the fate of Gen. Suchinda's military allies remains a volatile issue.

A constitutional tribunal was meeting Wednesday to decide on the validity of an amnesty decreed by Gen. Suchinda Saturday which absolved the commanders who ordered the massacre.

Demonstrators said they would protest Thursday at Parliament House to demand that Gen. Suchinda and his military allies be tried for murder.

Russia considers pulling troops from borders

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin said Wednesday he was considering pulling back troops from exposed borders of the former Soviet Union to protect Russian territory.

Mr. Yeltsin told the newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda that some Central Asian republics on Russia's southern flank had relaxed border controls with countries such as Iran, posing a security risk.

"There are no state borders within the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). No visas are required to travel from Central Asia to Russia... we cannot put ourselves in such a position. It is a question of security," he said.

A Commonwealth of Independent States committee would discuss the issue shortly.

Mr. Yeltsin warned other former Soviet republics that border troops would be pulled back to Russia if frontier controls were not respected.

The border troops, totalling some 200,000, come under Commonwealth jurisdiction but Mr. Yeltsin has placed them in Transcaucasia and the Baltic states under Russian control.

He said Kazakhstan, which signed a political and military cooperation treaty with Russia this week, was the only state that did not seek to establish its own border with Russia.

He added that he had already ordered border troops to pull back from the border between Turkey and the Transcaucasian territory of Nakhichevan, wedged between Armenia, Iran and Turkey.

Nakhichevan, an enclave ruled by Azerbaijan, has been the scene of fighting in recent days between Azeri and Armenian forces. The region's Azeri inhabitants have close ethnic, religious and cultural ties with the Turks.

Another area where former Soviet border restrictions no longer apply is the border between Moldova and Romania.

Moldova, populated largely by ethnic Romanians, mostly belonged to Romania until 1940 when Soviet dictator Josef Stalin seized it under a pact with Nazi Germany.

Mr. Yeltsin was quoted Wednesday as saying he would like to sign a long-delayed peace treaty with Japan in 1993 but had no intention of returning four disputed islands.

The dispute over the Kurile Islands of Habomai, Shikotan, Kunashiri and Etorofu has dogged relations between Japan and the former Soviet Union — and now Russia.

Japan says the islands, seized

by Soviet troops during World War II, should be returned as a precondition for a peace treaty opening the way for political and economic cooperation.

Mr. Yeltsin has said he plans to step down when his term ends in four years' time.

But the country's first freely-elected president reiterated his determination to steer his country through the painful transition from communism to capitalism.

"I will not go, no matter how hard it gets. I will not step back," ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted Mr. Yeltsin as saying during a meeting with workers in the town of Barnaul, near the Mongolian border, Tuesday.

The agency added: "(Yeltsin said) he did not aspire to a second term."

Mr. Yeltsin, who will be 65 when the next presidential poll is due in 1996, faces stiff opposition from hardline conservatives in his effort to transform Russia into a market economy.

He has continually denied rumours of ill-health or heavy drinking. He appeared fit and well on his visit to Barnaul.

He strengthened his grip on power Tuesday when Russia's constitutional court ruled it was competent to hear charges that the once all-powerful Communist Party grossly violated the laws of the old Soviet Union.

"This is a victory for democracy and for the fight against the resurrection of what was in many ways a criminal organisation," said Sergei Kovalyov, once a jailed dissident and now a senior Russian parliamentary figure.

The Commonwealth threatened by rows on dividing up the former Soviet Union's huge military machine, received support from an unexpected quarter Tuesday when Ukrainian leader Leonid Kravchuk said the alliance might have a future.

"The Commonwealth has not exhausted its possibilities. The moment the Commonwealth starts working... Ukraine will undertake huge efforts to strengthen it," Mr. Kravchuk told a news conference in the Estonian capital Tallinn.

Mr. Kravchuk, whose country is one of the Commonwealth's founding members, has become one of its fiercest critics, complaining that Russia is adopting a heavy-handed approach.

Other signs of compromise over issues dividing the flimsy Commonwealth came from Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of Commonwealth Armed Forces who said the Black Sea Fleet of the former Soviet Union would be removed from joint control and divided up between Ukraine and Russia.

NATO considers peace role; split on Euro-defence

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO defence ministers agreed Wednesday to consider using alliance forces in a wider peacekeeping role for Europe, but remained deeply divided over the shape of their own military in the post-cold war era.

NATO is expected to finalise plans next week for helping the 52-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) with peacekeeping missions on an increasingly fragmented and troubled continent.

"We would be prepared to consider ways in which resources and expertise within the alliance might, if it so decides, be made available for CSCE peacekeeping missions," the defence ministers said in a statement at the end of a two-day meeting.

But their statement papered over sharp differences within NATO on how more independent Western European defences should be set up now that the United States is cutting its forces there.

The ministers argued over a controversial Franco-German plan to set up a joint 35,000-strong corps unveiled last week by Paris and Bonn as the possible nucleus of a future "Euro-army."

The United States and Britain, worried that the idea will undermine the U.S.-led North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), lashed out at the idea Tuesday — despite protestations by German Defence Minister Volker Ruehe that it was sound.

France was not at the Brussels meeting to defend its view. It quit NATO's military structure 25 years ago, in protest at what it saw as U.S. domination of Euro-

pean security.

If the new peacekeeping mission for NATO is to be approved, France will have to give its approval at a meeting of all 16 alliance foreign ministers in Oslo next week. NATO has until now been limited to the defence of its members.

Officials said the ministers agreed that NATO could offer its military expertise and even troops on a "case by case" basis, but that the CSCE would not be able automatically to demand alliance resources and that some allies might opt out.

It would be a strictly peacekeeping role, not a blueprint for turning NATO into a kind of Europe-wide enforcer.

The Brussels meeting also approved major changes in NATO's military structure for the post-cold war era, which will cut its forces and shape them into more mobile and multinational units able to respond quickly to any new threats.

The alliance is due to complete its military restructuring, including new "Rapid Reaction Forces" by 1995, the same year as the Franco-German Corps becomes operational.

Defence ministers said staff at NATO Headquarters would be cut by around 20 per cent. Some command centres will be closed.

The meeting also approved a U.S. request for European allies to consider paying a share of the costs involved in storing U.S. military hardware and supplies in Europe in case of crisis.

But, with shrinking defence budgets, those costs will have to compete with many others for available NATO cash.

9 killed amid signs of unrest in Haitian military

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (R) — At least nine people were killed amid rising tension in Haiti and signs of division in the army, human rights sources said.

A human rights leaders said the bodies of five of the people killed Monday night and Tuesday were taken away by soldiers supporting the government. Radio reports said at least one victim was a student killed when armed men opened fire on a group of students.

Student protests were reported in several cities and the military high command said it was voiding all permits for civilians to carry arms.

The violence followed a public appeal by five soldiers for the resignation of de facto President Joseph Nerette, who came to power after a coup toppled elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide last Sept. 30.

The demand, broadcast over Roman Catholic Radio Soleil, may be a sign of growing unease within the Haitian military, Western diplomatic sources said.

As a result of the coup, the Organisation of American States (OAS) imposed an economic embargo on Haiti, which further increased hardship on the poor Caribbean nation.

That led thousands of Haitians to crowd into leaky boats and set sail for the United States. Many were seized and sent to a refugee camp at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo, Cuba.

After the camp was filled with 12,000 people, the United States decided to return the boat people to Haiti. On Tuesday, it carried out that policy for the first time, returning 38 boat people to Port-Au-Prince.

In the broadcast by the soldiers, the group's spokesman, identified as Adolphe Monaud, said, "we want to be on the side of the people. We are tired of carrying a gun since Sept. 30. Those in government now should not forget the army put them into power."

A diplomat who requested anonymity said: "One thing seems certain. There is fear among the lower rank soldiers."

"We know there are some desertions within the army. The soldiers are trying to convince the people they are not to be held responsible for all the crimes committed since the coup," the diplomat added.

Army chief Raoul Cedras, in a separate broadcast on the radio station, said there was no one named Adolphe Monaud.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

U.N. team travels to Nakhichevan

MOSCOW (AP) — A U.N. fact-finding mission travelled Wednesday to Nakhichevan, the latest flashpoint in the war between Azerbaijan and Armenia. Azerbaijan's Turan News Agency reported. The team has been asked to prepare a report for U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali on the escalating fighting between the two countries, which threatens to drag in other nations in the area, such as Turkey. Fighting has spread earlier this month to Nakhichevan following Armenian victories in Nagorno-Karabakh, where 1,500 people have died in four years of fighting. Nakhichevan is a region of Azerbaijan separated from the rest of the country by Armenia. It also borders Iran and Turkey. Nagorno-Karabakh is an Armenian-populated enclave inside Azerbaijan.

Russia, Turkey pledge peace efforts

MOSCOW — Russia and Turkey called on Tuesday for an end to fighting in Transcaucasia and pledged joint efforts to halt the bloodshed in the region. But shooting flared between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces at several points around the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh. Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel, addressing a news conference at the end of a two-day visit to Moscow, dismissed suggestions Turkey would send troops to support ethnically-related Azeris in their conflict with Armenia. "There will be no such thing as Turkish military intervention," he said, though roundly denouncing Armenian fighters' seizure of Azeri territory in the last two weeks. He also denied reports that Turkey had strengthened its troops near the border with Armenia.

Korean nuclear talks deadlocked

SEOUL (R) — North and South Korean officials met for about four hours Wednesday but made little headway on the vexed issue of mutual inspections of their nuclear sites, a Southern spokesman said. The two sides even failed to set the date for the next meeting of their Joint Nuclear Control Committee, dimming prospects they will be able to carry out inspections in mid-June as agreed in principle previously, he said. "The two sides were not able to narrow differences during today's meeting (at the border village of Panmunjom) because the North merely repeated its earlier position," the spokesman said. Despite Pyongyang's repeated denials, South Korea, the United States and Japan fear the North is close to building a nuclear bomb.

Taiwan assembly approves reforms

TAIPEI (AP) — The National Assembly approved constitutional reforms Wednesday while the main opposition group was absent. The reforms marked the first time an assembly elected by local Taiwanese has made changes to the constitution that was enacted in 1947, two years before Taiwan's ruling Nationalists fled here after losing a civil war to Communist forces on the Chinese mainland. The reforms take place during a time of growing calls for more democracy, but they stopped short of providing for direct presidential elections. The main opposition Democratic Progressive Party was not present when the reforms were approved. All 74 of its deputies had walked out of the 402-member assembly this month, accusing the Nationalists of blocking real political reform.

Clinton, Bush win Kentucky, Arkansas; Perot stays strong

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Likely Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton and Republican President George Bush coasted to victories in state primaries in Arkansas and Kentucky, where disgruntled voters signalled support for the man on the ballot — Ross Perot.

With nearly all votes counted in Kentucky, Clinton won with 56 per cent, followed by 28 per cent who voted uncommitted, 8 per cent for rival Jerry Brown and 8 per cent for other candidates.

On the Republican side, Mr. Bush — who already has the nomination to run for a second term clinched — racked up 75 per cent of the vote while 25 per cent voted uncommitted, state officials said.

Officials said the high uncommitted vote was a symbolic protest vote that should encourage backers of Mr. Perot, who had urged such a vote as a message of support for the Texas businessman.

In Mr. Clinton's home state of

Arkansas, voters endorsed him for the nomination but the early trend was not by the overwhelming margin he had sought. He rolled up 68 per cent of the vote to Brown's 11 per cent, but uncommitted Democrats totalled 18 per cent while 3 per cent voted for others, with about half the returns in.

Arkansas voters went for Mr. Bush over conservative challenger Pat Buchanan by 87 to 13 per cent with 40 per cent of the vote counted.

The impressive "uncommitted" vote in Kentucky was a symbolic gesture of dissatisfaction with both parties.

"With undecided getting one in four Republican votes and nearly 28 per cent of the Democrats, the voters are clearly trying to send some kind of message," said Kentucky Secretary of State Bob Babbage. "Ross Perot was here last week and they were asking his supporters to vote uncommitted."

Mr. Perot's backers urged

Democratic and Republican voters to sign an uncommitted column to signal they favour the Texas billionaire, who is expected to mount a self-financed independent campaign in the Nov. 3 presidential election.

Mr. Perot was not on the primary ballots in Kentucky, Arkansas or Idaho, all of which held presidential primaries Tuesday. The Texan is running first in some national polls in three-way matchups with Mr. Clinton and Mr. Bush.

Although polls projected wins for Mr. Clinton Tuesday in all three primary states, he will still be short of the 2,145 delegate votes needed to clinch the nomination in July at the Democratic Party convention in New York.

Mr. Clinton and his wife, Hillary, voted Tuesday in Arkansas and he later campaigned in Ohio and headed to New Jersey — who of six states, including California, that host the final round of presidential primaries next week.

Going into Tuesday's primaries, Mr. Clinton had nearly 1,812 delegates, according to a tally by NBC News. Former Massachusetts Senator Paul Tsongas, who dropped out but has not released his delegates, has 536 and Mr. Brown trails with 368.

A total of 88 Democratic delegates were at stake in Tuesday's voting, 36 in Arkansas and 52 in Kentucky. None were to be won in Idaho, which held a "beauty contest" primary after delegates were selected earlier at party meetings.

Mr. Clinton could lock up the nomination on June 2 when California, Alabama, New Jersey, Montana, New Mexico and Ohio hold primaries to close out the delegate-selection process that began in Iowa and New Hampshire in February.

The June 2 primaries offer the largest vote of delegates — 700 Democratic and 427 Republican — since super Tuesday on March 10.

The primaries should give

Congress wrangles over Philippine election count

MANILA (R) — Wrangling Philippine legislators Wednesday further delayed the already slow official counting of votes from a bitter presidential election.

Sixteen days after the polls, Filipinos were still in the dark about who their next president would be, although unofficial tallies show former defence chief Fidel Ramos leading his closest rival, ex-Judge Miriam Santiago, by 892,000 votes.

With 71.5 per cent of the estimated 25 million votes cast counted by a private "Quick Count" body, Gen. Ramos had chalked up 4.26 million votes.

Mr. Santiago was running second with 3.36 million, followed by business tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco with 3.16 million. Former first lady Imelda Marcos trailed in fifth place with 1.87 million.

Congress, meeting in a joint session of the Senate and the House of Representatives, must proclaim a winner by June 30, when outgoing President Cora-

zon Aquino steps down after a six-year term.

It was to have begun its count Tuesday but squabbling over the rules prevented the start of the counting.

The wrangling over procedure continued until Wednesday and some senators said it was unlikely a count would start before Thursday.

"All this uncertainty will not be good for our country," congressman Hernani Perez said in a television interview.

The legislators are to count tallies that record the total number of votes received by each candidate in polling stations in 1,500 towns and cities.

The tedious process requires that they open ballot boxes containing the tallies in front of representatives of each candidate, identify each of the documents inside and read out the names of officials who filled in and signed the tally sheets before the votes are actually tabulated.

Actress Anjelica Huston marries sculptor

LOS ANGELES (R) — Oscar-winning actress Anjelica Huston married sculptor Robert Graham in a weekend ceremony, her publicist said. It was the first marriage for the 40-year-old actress, daughter of the late director John Huston and granddaughter of actor Walter Huston. Publicist Susan Geller said the couple were married Saturday at the Bel-Air Hotel and were believed to be spending their honeymoon in Mexico. Born in California and raised in London and Ireland, Huston entered the family business and got her first starring role as a teenager in her father's 1969 film *A Walk With Love And Death*. After the death of her mother, ballerina Enrica Sonja, she moved to New York to pursue a successful career as a model.

Huston joined the ranks of Hollywood's leading ladies in 1985 when she won an Academy Award for a supporting role in *Prizzi's Honour*. It was quickly followed by a role in *The Dead*, based on a short story by James Joyce, and also directed by her father. It was John Huston's last film. It was selected by the National Society of Film Critics as the best film of 1987. Anjelica Huston has since starred in *Crimes And Misdemeanors*, *Enemies, A Love Story*, *The Grifters* and most recently the box office smash *The Addams Family*.

Dutch MPs vote to legalise brothels

AMSTERDAM (R) — Dutch parliamentarians have voted to legalise brothels, but prostitutes said the new law would raise their tax bills and, in little time, benefit. The majority vote in parliament clears the way for a new law, aimed at improving working conditions for prostitutes, by freeing local councils to license brothels that meet certain standards on heating, ventilation, hygiene and safety. The draft legislation, which must still be approved by parliament's upper house, is the most significant step to date towards making commercial sex completely legal in the Netherlands. "The biggest advantage is that working conditions will be kept at a better level," said Liesbeth Rensman, a Justice Ministry spokeswoman. It will give councils a weapon against pimps who pressure women or force girls under the age of 18 into prostitution. These will remain criminal offences, she said. "Voluntary prostitution is already legal in the Netherlands. Brothel-keeping, though officially banned, has been tolerated — often in 'red light districts' — since 1978."

Lana Turner has small cancer in throat

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actress Lana Turner said in a statement doctors have found a small cancer in her throat during an exploratory operation but the chances for her full recovery are excellent. "My doctors have informed me that a small cancer was found. Because of its early detection, the prognosis for a full recovery is excellent," Turner said in the statement. "I know that with the help of my beloved God and my loving family, I will be fine," added the 72-year-old actress, who is recuperating at her home in Los Angeles. Turner's spokeswoman, Linda Dozoretz, said she was in hospital for a few days this month. Turner was the pre-eminent "sweater girl" of the 1940s. Born in a small mining town, Turner made her first film in 1937 and became a superstar, teaming up the screen in such movies as *The Youngest Profession*, in 1943, *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, in 1946, and *Peyton Place* in 1957. She had seven marriages. Among her husbands were band leader Artie Shaw and film tarzan Lex Barker.

China's premier writes book on environment

PEKING (R) — Chinese Premier Li Peng, whose country's economic development has caused devastating pollution, has published a book on China's way of protecting the environment. The book, *Li Peng Speaks On Environmental Protection With Chinese Characteristics*, collects the premier's speeches and thoughts and "completely reflects Li Peng's views," the New China News Agency said in a dispatch printed in newspapers Wednesday. Many of China's industrial areas press the whole year around in thick yellow smog. Official reports have said that pollution is poisoning the nation's water supply.

California and Ohio primaries are the two biggest jewels in next week's six-state round of voting

In California, 348 Democratic and 201 Republican delegates will be selected. Ohio voters will select 151 Democratic and 83 Republican delegates. There will be one footnote to next week's primaries: North Dakota on June 9 holds a Republican primary to select